



AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

# WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM - 2018



January 2018

**AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM**

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## **ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM**

The Australian Museum, is a leading cultural attraction located in the heart of Sydney's CBD. Our mission is to inspire exploration, understanding and care for our world by researching, exhibiting, educating and communicating the relationship between people, culture and the natural environment.

The Museum is a dynamic source of reliable scientific information and a touchstone for informed debate about some of the most pressing environmental and social challenges facing our region today: the loss of biodiversity, a changing climate and the search for cultural identity.

Underpinning our research is an irreplaceable collection of international standing - more than 18 million objects representing a timeline of the environmental and cultural histories of the Australian and Pacific regions.

Our collection holds many artefacts from Indigenous Australia and the Pacific, a record of human diversity and a living wellspring for regional cultural diversity.

It contains irreplaceable fossils, minerals, meteorites and gemstones that provide a geological perspective of the planet. It houses representative specimens of native Australian mammals, birds, reptiles and fish that tell many stories about our unique wildlife, as well as countless invertebrates from a diversity of land and marine environments.

The public faces of the Museum – its heritage buildings, exhibitions, education programs and ever-changing special displays – result from 190 years of relevant learning and communication.

The collections of the Australian Museum are a physical bank of biological and cultural information much of which is not on display in the exhibition galleries. The Museum maintains a number of Natural Science and Cultural collections which are preserved and made



available to researchers in Australia and abroad in order to increase knowledge about our world with the intention of helping to solve key challenges facing modern society.

A staff of research scientists, technical officers and collection managers work on our collections in the context of answering questions about our environment and history. In addition, we supervise the work of students and host visiting researchers from around the world.

### **Australian Museum Research Institute (AMRI)**

The Australian Museum Research Institute comprises scientific infrastructure, research and collections staff, Senior Fellows, Research Associates and their postgraduate students. Its scope covers the full range of our geoscience, biological and archaeological research with a strong emphasis on the AM's 6 strategic research focus areas:

1. Use our research and collections expertise to understand and ameliorate the environmental impacts of climate change on biodiversity
2. Contribute to the understanding and management of biosecurity threats
3. Discover and understand biodiversity to inform effective animal conservation
4. Apply wildlife genomics to solve key problems
5. Generate knowledge to maximise benefits from Australia's geological and biological resources
6. Foster understanding and appreciation of cultural differences for a more socially inclusive society through our anthropological and archaeological research.

### **Australian Centre for Wildlife Genomics (ACWG)**

The ACWG is based at the Australian Museum and provides essential services in DNA identification and genomics-based research. The Centre assists state and federal government agencies in managing wildlife smuggling, fisheries breaches, suspected quarantine incursions and aviation safety.

The ACWG is conducting the Koala Genome project, one of the first Australian-led mammalian genome projects. In addition to critical conservation outcomes for the Koala, the project will enhance next-generation sequencing and data-handling expertise within Australia. The ACWG is one of the few laboratories to have attained NATA (National Association of Testing Authorities) accreditation for wildlife forensic work in the region.

### **Australian Museum Centre for Citizen Science (AMCCS)**

The Australian Museum aims to be a leader of citizen science, nationally and internationally. The AMCCS includes a range of citizen science programs that identify, develop and implement citizen science projects that engage Australian and International communities in increasing understanding of the natural world.

The scope of the AMCCS includes disciplines of biodiversity, geodiversity and human impacts on culture and nature; it also includes field-based and web-based crowdsourcing,



and collaborates with and engages other museums, universities, herbaria, government agencies and community groups.

[DigiVol](#) is an innovative citizen science program (1000+ volunteers) started in 2011 at the Australian Museum which adds considerable value to the digitisation of the Museum's vast collections. DigiVol volunteers complement the work of Museum Collections staff and research scientists by capturing images of specimens, objects and archival materials and then recording label data into digital form. This data is then transcribed and validated by online volunteers before being imported to the Museum data base and made available on some scientific websites. This work helps us to better understand, manage and conserve our precious biodiversity.



# **AREAS AVAILABLE FOR WORK EXPERIENCE IN 2018**

## **Natural Sciences – Vertebrates Collections**

### **Herpetology Collection**

The Australian Museum Herpetology collection contains most known Australian species of amphibian and reptile. Reptiles are the major group represented - more than two thirds of the total collection. Lizards make up around two thirds of all reptiles, a feature that reflects the richness (in terms of number of species) of this group of reptiles. Lizards from northern and eastern Australia and the Pacific Islands are particularly well represented, as this group has been the focus of research interests at various times throughout the history of the Herpetology section. There are also significant collections of sea snakes and freshwater turtles. The amphibian collection is extensive in its coverage of species at both at a national and a broader Australasian level, and contains representatives of frog species that are now extinct.

### **Ichthyology Collection**

Ichthyology is the study of fishes. There are estimated to be over 32,500 species of fishes worldwide and over 4,400 are from Australian waters. The Fish Research Collection contains many adult and larval fish specimens used by researchers worldwide. The collection contains specimens from all around the world, but has a large collection of fish from the deep-sea and Indo-Pacific reefs as well as larval fishes, gobies and freshwater fishes from New South Wales. The Australian Museum fish type collection is one of the most important in the world, containing over 12,600 specimens.

### **Ornithology Collection**

Ornithology is the branch of zoology devoted to studying birds. Around 10,000 species of bird inhabit the world, ranging from tiny hummingbirds up to huge ostriches. The Australian Museum has one of the largest ornithological collections in the Southern Hemisphere. It contains a large variety of bird skins, mounts, skeletons, eggs, nests, spirit specimens and tissue samples, representing approximately 95% of the world's bird families.

## **Natural Sciences – Earth Science Collections**

### **Mineralogy and Petrology Collection**

The Australian Museum Mineral collection covers 1,290 different mineral species. Most come from New South Wales but other Australian and world localities are also represented. Special features are Broken Hill and New England minerals, gemstones, ornamental and carved minerals, zeolites and the world-famous Albert Chapman Collection. The rock collection is mostly from eastern Australia, but includes specimens from all states and many overseas localities. There are also historic specimens from Antarctica collected by Sir Douglas Mawson in the early 1900s.



The Australian Museum holds Australia's oldest and most diverse meteorite and tektite collections. Meteorites are rocks that come from outside earth, and tektites are earth-rocks that have been melted by meteoric impacts. Australian meteorites include several rare types and have been important for research into the origins of the solar system and possible origins of life.

### **Palaeontology Collection**

Palaeontology is the study of fossils. Fossils are the remains or traces of prehistoric living things. Fossils are preserved in substances such as sediments, coal, tar, oil, amber or volcanic ash, or frozen in ice or naturally mummified.

The Australian Museum palaeontology collection contains some of the Museum's greatest treasures. One of the most spectacular is 'Eric' the opalised pliosaur from Coober Pedy. The collection also contains some of Australia's oldest mammal fossils, collected from the opal fields of Lightning Ridge in northern New South Wales.

### **Cultural Connection**

#### **Indigenous Pacific Collection**

The Pacific collections and research at the Australian Museum focus on material culture, ethnography, history and archaeology of the Indigenous peoples of the Pacific region.

There are approximately 60,000 ethnographic objects from Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia in the Pacific Collection. Our primary focus is on the Melanesian nations of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

The Australian Museum has longstanding relationships with communities throughout the Pacific and we are committed to promoting greater understanding of Pacific artefacts and cultural materials and providing access to the collections to a wide range of community groups, researchers and the general public.

#### **Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Collections**

The Australian Museum cares for over 20,000 ethnographic objects acquired from many communities across Australia, and around 400 cultural objects and artworks from the Torres Strait Islands.

The first Indigenous Australian objects were collected for the museum in the late 1870's. Sadly, almost all of these early collections were destroyed in the Garden Palace fire of 1882. Since then, the Australian Museum has acquired various objects, from traditional objects to contemporary, that reflect the changes in how objects are made and used.

The Australian Aboriginal collection is comprised of a wide range of objects, including weapons, body ornaments, tools, bark paintings, toys and contemporary art and sculpture from all across Australia. The Torres Strait Collection includes material from a variety of language groups across the Torres Strait, representing the richness, breadth and diversity of Torres Strait Islander culture.



## **Australian Aboriginal Archaeology**

The Australian Museum holds a unique material record of the prehistory of the south-eastern region of Australia over the last 50,000 years.

The Australian Museum holds a large body of materials obtained from Aboriginal archaeological sites in New South Wales. They include about 2,000 collections of materials (assemblages) recovered via systematic field research. These were assembled typically with the consent of indigenous communities and permits issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and currently the New South Wales Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water – both of which have been responsible for protecting of Aboriginal sites in the state since 1974.

## **Administrative Departments**

### **Design**

The Design team plays a critical role in the planning, development & delivery of the physical form and creative output for exhibitions, programs and marketing for the Australian Museum. This includes the delivery of exhibition fabrication, print, digital and display graphics by both 3D & 2D designers.

### **Education**

The Education team delivers the Museum's informal and formal learning programs including face-to-face teaching programs, outreach programs and digital initiatives that inform and create an environment that stimulates curiosity and motivates learning. The Education team has a portfolio of early childhood, school and tertiary programs, citizen science, outreach, festival offerings and social media. Education focuses on AM science and cultural priorities, and engages all learners on issues affecting geo-diversity, biodiversity and sustainability.

### **Finance Business Partners**

The Finance Business Partner team collaborate with managers across the organisation to achieve their financial goals. This is done through participating in strategic projects, regular communication, financial coaching and reporting.

### **Materials Conservation**

The Materials Conservation Unit specialises in the preservation of Anthropology and Natural Science collections including ethnographic and archaeological objects, rare books and archives, and biology and geology collections. The Conservation unit includes staff members with skills outside of traditional conservation, such as having a taxidermist as part of the team, who lend their special skill set to the department.





## **Memberships**

The Members team is responsible promoting the Museums offer, servicing Museum members (including renewing and new members) and increasing membership participation in all aspects of the Museum. The Members team also manage events and the Members Lounge onsite.

## **Public Programming**

This department produces a variety of museum visitor events such as school holiday programs, adult programs, early childhood sessions and manages the Search and Discover information centre. Public programs are a vital part of the Museum's engagement with diverse audiences, fostering an awareness and understanding of Australian history, nature, culture and society through creative and innovative ways that stimulate, engage and inspire people. Programs have a national and international focus that provide opportunities for our visitors to access the Museum's collections, research and expert staff.

## **Web and Digital Media**

The Australian Museum's website is visited by over 4 million visitors each year. The Web and Digital team look after all the museum's digital products including the website, mobile apps, audio tours, online videos, podcasts and citizen science and augmented reality apps to support AM research areas.

***For more information on what you could expect to be doing in each department, or any other queries you may have, please contact the Work Experience Coordinator on (02) 9320 6317.***



## **WORK EXPERIENCE IN 2018**

In 2018, the Australian Museum (AM) will offer work experience opportunities to students in Years 10, 11 and 12. Opportunities will be offered across a variety of AM departments, including areas of the AM focussed on scientific exploration and discovery, as well as 'behind-the-scenes' departments such as education, public programming and exhibitions whose work relates to the general running of the AM. The format of the week of work experience is designed to give students an understanding of the variety of work done across the museum and includes 2 days focused in an area of the student's choice.

All work experience opportunities at the AM will provide practical learning opportunities to consolidate classroom teaching. This will support students' personal development and professional skills as they prepare to enter the workforce and make choices about their careers.

### **Placement Opportunities**

- Placements are open to NSW secondary school students in Years 10, 11 and 12
- Offered throughout the year commencing at the beginning of Term 2, 2018
- Each placement is limited to 5 days (Monday to Friday) working 10am to 4pm each day
- A maximum of 2 placements will be offered per school, each year

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

- Determined by individual Departments of the AM and outlined with students at the start of their placement
- Successful students are expected to perform tasks to the best of their ability and uphold the values, mission, goals, policies and procedures set down by the AM, including Safety Regulations and particular clothing requirements
- All work experience students will be responsible to the Manager, Education, or their nominee.
- Effective daily supervision, induction, guidance and training will be provided by the Department in which they are placed

### **Eligibility**

- Students of all backgrounds and abilities are welcome to apply.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply as are students from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Students with a disability are asked to indicate individual, specific requirements in your application.

### **Applications**

- Open from Monday **5 March 2018**
- Closing on Friday **6 April 2018**

### **Selection Process**

- Selection for placement will be based on the availability of work-area preferences nominated by each applicant, along with the applicant's statement of interest in seeking a placement, their expected outcomes and a statement of recommendation from their



School's Careers Advisor or other appropriate senior staff member.

- A maximum of 2 work placements will be offered per school per year.
- All successful applicants for 2017 will be notified during the first week of Term 2, from **Tuesday 1 May 2018**.

## **Application Process**

To be considered, applicants must:

1. Complete the work experience placement application form, including nominating up to three key areas of interest (detailed in pages 5-10 of this document).
2. Provide a statement of interest (no more than one A4 page) answering the following questions:
  - a. Why have you applied for a work experience placement at the Australian Museum?
  - b. Why have you chosen this/these key area(s) of interest?
  - c. What do you hope to achieve by spending a week working at the Australian Museum, and how will these help you in your future?
3. Provide a brief resume including personal details and any relevant skills, interests, hobbies etc
4. Provide a statement of recommendation from your school Careers Advisor or other appropriate senior staff member to support your application.
5. Provide a personal reference, if available.

# AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### 2018 APPLICATION FORM

Applicant details			
First name		Last name	
Date of birth		Mobile phone	
Home phone		Email	
Mailing address			

Emergency contact details (parent or guardian)			
Name		Relationship	
Mobile Phone		Email address	

School details			
School name			
2018 year level			
School contact name		Position	
Phone number		Email	

Preferred dates (NB. Earliest intake is Monday 14 May and latest intake is Monday 3 December)		
Preference 1	Start Monday __/__/__	End Friday __/__/__
Preference 2	Start Monday __/__/__	End Friday __/__/__
Preference 3	Start Monday __/__/__	End Friday __/__/__

Key area of interest (Information about the Museum departments available for work experience can be found in pages 5-10 of this document)	
Preference 1	
Preference 2	
Preference 3	

Applicant Checklist (Please include the following information with your application.)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A brief resume including personal details and any relevant skills, interests, hobbies etc
<input type="checkbox"/>	A personal statement of interest (no more than one A4 page) answering the following questions:
	1. Why have you applied for a work experience placement at the Australian Museum?
	2. Why have you chosen this/these key area(s) of interest?
	3. What do you hope to achieve by spending a week working at the Australian Museum, and how will these help you in your future?
<input type="checkbox"/>	A statement of recommendation from your school Careers Advisor or other appropriate senior staff member to support your application
<input type="checkbox"/>	A personal reference, if available

Send this application form together with documents listed above to:

**Manager, Education**  
**Australian Museum**  
**1 William Street**  
**Sydney NSW 2010**

**OR [Learning.services@austmus.gov.au](mailto:Learning.services@austmus.gov.au)**

*Receipt of applications will be acknowledged by email.*