

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

About the program

Q. What are the benefits of participating in the Foreign National Student Internship Program at U.S. Consulate General Sydney?

A. If selected as a participant you will:

- **Gain** invaluable experience
- **Learn** about American business, culture, organizational structure, and politics
- **Interact** with government officials and diplomats, U.S. Mission employees and other student interns
- **Complement** your studies through professional experience

Q. Who organizes the program?

A. The Foreign National Student Internship Program, which is independently designed and administered by each diplomatic post, is designed to allow students who are non-U.S. citizens to intern at U.S. Missions abroad. In the case of the U.S. Consulate General Sydney, the internship program is the result of a joint initiative between the U.S. Consulate General and local universities.

The internship

Q. Do I need my University's permission to participate in the internship?

A. Yes. Only students who have permission from their university are eligible to apply.

Q. Can I receive academic credit for my internship?

A. Yes. Only students who are able to receive academic credit for completing the internship from their university are eligible to apply.

Q. How long is the internship?

A. The internship will occur over a period of six weeks from January 4, 2016 to February 13, 2016. There will be a one day orientation on the first day. During the internship, interns are expected to work a 40-hour week.

Q. How is my internship organized?

A. The Consulate is seeking interns, and representatives of several U.S. agencies at the Consulate will select the top candidates for interviews with the input of representatives of the participating universities. Following the interview process, successful candidates will be selected for the available positions.

Q. What will I do during my internship?

A. Tasks will be agreed to at the outset of the internship and will vary between the participating sections in the Consulate.

Q. Will I be assigned tasks or to a section specifically related to my degree?

A. Not necessarily. However, the internship should be considered as an opportunity to expand your knowledge and learn new skills.

Q. Do I get paid for my internship?

A. No. All internships are unpaid.

Q. Will I receive a certificate upon completion of my internship?

A. Yes. All participants will receive a Certificate of Participation. A letter of successful completion of the internship from the U.S. Consulate will also be provided.

Q. What should I do to prepare for the internship?

A. Prior to the internship, students should undertake independent research about American culture, traditions and customs. Upon being notified within which section successful candidates will work, students should do some research about that section.

Eligibility

Q. I am a U.S. Citizen, can I apply for the internship program?

A. The Foreign National Student Internship Program is for non-U.S. Citizens only. American students should apply for the [State Department's Internship Program](#).

Q. Who is eligible to apply for the internship program?

A. Any non-U.S. citizen who is enrolled at a local Australian university and meets the selection criteria is eligible to apply for the program.

Q. What are the selection criteria?

A. All interns:

- Must be able to work as a volunteer, **full time from January 4, 2016 - February 13, 2016**
- Must be a non-U.S. citizen and have the right to work in Australia
- Must be over 18 years of age
- Must be in good academic standing with their university (i.e. are currently not required to show cause for poor academic performance)
- Must have private medical insurance, at least for the duration of the internship (only for those not covered by Australian Medicare)
- Must be returning to university studies after completion of the internship Note: You are eligible to apply for the Consulate's internship program if you have not yet completed your enrollment at or are waiting to hear the outcome of your application for graduate studies. However, if selected for an internship, you must provide proof that you have registered, or have been accepted for enrollment for studies in the semester immediately following the internship.
- Must have your university's permission to undertake the internship.
- Must be able to receive academic credit from your university for completing the internship.

Q. I'm in the final year of my undergraduate degree. Am I still eligible to apply?

A. Yes.

Q. I am an international student. Am I still eligible to apply?

A. Yes. This program is designed for non-American students.