



AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

# WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM - 2021



April 2021

**AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM**

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**AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM**



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## **ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM**

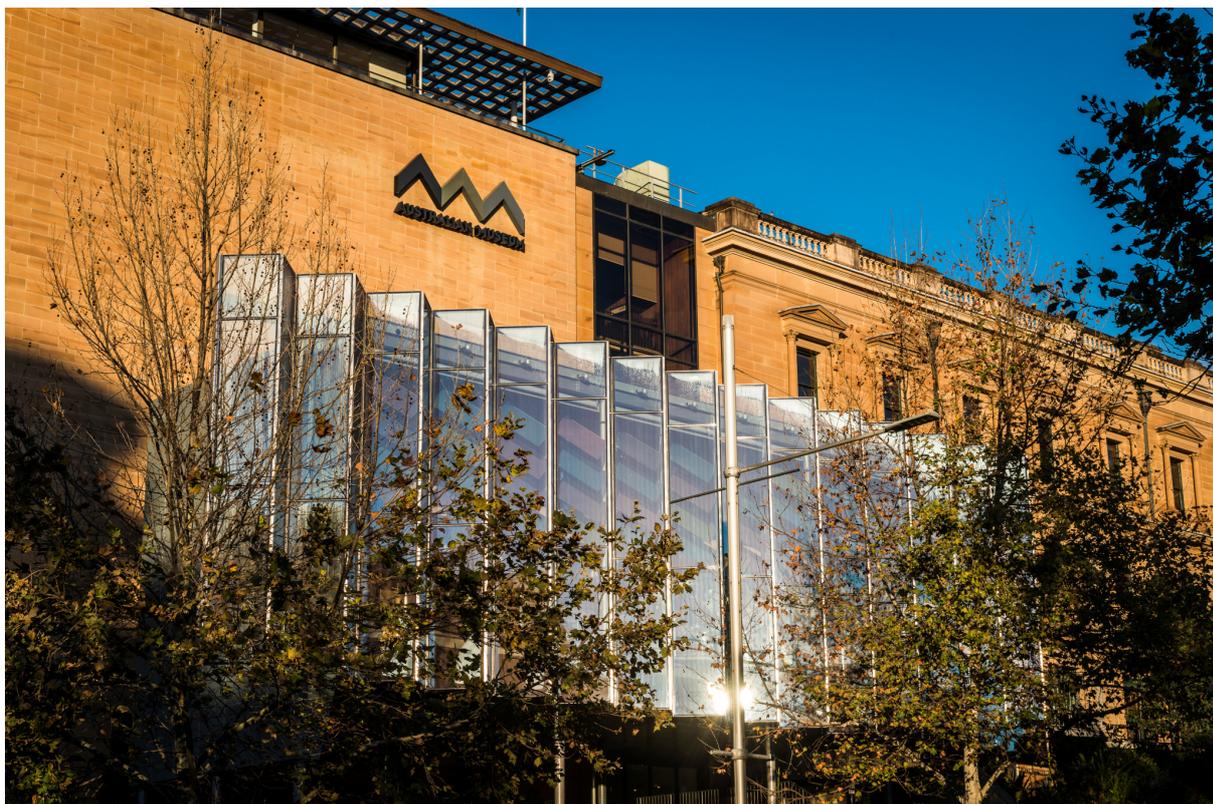
Australia's first public museum was established in Sydney in 1827 with the aim of procuring 'many rare and curious specimens of Natural History'.

In 1829 William Holmes was appointed the first custodian of the fledgling collection, then located in the old post office building in Macquarie Place. Initially known as the Sydney Museum or Colonial Museum, the institution was formally named the Australian Museum in 1836. It was also stipulated that the Museum and Botanic Gardens be jointly governed by a 'Committee of Superintendence' made up of eminent men of the colony.

The collection was housed in various buildings around Sydney until colonial architect Mortimer Lewis designed a dedicated museum building. Construction began in 1846 on a site in William Street near Hyde Park, and the new museum opened to the public in 1857 with just one exhibition gallery. Since then the site has been modified many times to accommodate the growing needs of exhibitions, collections and staff. In 2008 a new wing to the east of the site was built to house scientific staff and collections.

Today the Australian Museum continues its dual roles in research and education.

From a 'beautiful Collection of Australian curiosities', the museum has grown to an internationally recognised collection of over 18 million cultural and scientific objects. The museum plays a leading role in taxonomic and systematic research, and at its research station at Lizard Island conducts significant research on coral reef ecology. Through exhibitions and other public programs the Australian Museum continues to inform and amaze generations of visitors about the unique flora, fauna and cultures of Australia and the Pacific.





## **OUR MISSION**

To ignite wonder, inspire debate and drive change.

## **OUR VISION**

To be a leading voice for the richness of life, the Earth and culture in Australia and the Pacific. We commit to transform the conversation around climate change, the environment and wildlife conservation; be a strong advocate for First Nations' culture; and continue to develop world-leading science, collections, exhibitions and education programs.

The Australian 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: 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 21 million objects representing a timeline of the environmental and cultural histories of the Australian and Pacific regions.

Our collection holds many objects 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, fish and countless invertebrates that tell many stories about our unique wildlife.



## **WORK EXPERIENCE IN 2021**

Every day at the Australian Museum is different. Our work experience program offers high school students the chance to explore a variety of careers including science and cultural research, education, public programming, curatorial and exhibition design, marketing, communications and corporate services.

All work experience opportunities provide practical learning 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.

### **A typical week**

The AM offers a variety of different career opportunities. A typical week of work experience will allow students to work alongside a variety of staff members including those in our science and research teams, visitor experience and public engagement and behind the scenes administrative and creative departments. All placements will include some time spent in our DNA Lab, working on collection digitisation, public engagement and communication activities plus a specialisation in an area of the students' choice identified during the application process.

### **Placement opportunities**

- Placements are open to NSW secondary school students in Years 10, 11 and 12
- Offered during Terms 3 and 4, 2021
- 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 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 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 additional needs are asked to indicate individual, specific requirements in your application



## **Applications**

- **Open Monday 29 March 2021**
- **Close Friday 7 May 2021**

Successful applicants will be notified by the end of week 7, Term 2.

*Please note. The work experience program at the Australian Museum is in high demand and number of applications far outweigh places available each year. All applications will be assessed by a panel based on application, areas of interest and available dates. We recommend that you are fully aware of our process dates as outlined above and have alternative arrangements in place in case your application is unsuccessful.*

## **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 7-8 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.

## **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.
- All successful applicants for 2021 will be notified by the end of week 7, Term 2.



# AREAS OF SPECIALISATION AVAILABLE FOR WORK EXPERIENCE IN 2021

## Australian Museum Research Institute

### Marine Invertebrates

The Australian Museum Marine Invertebrate collection holds over twenty major groups of marine invertebrates, these include a diverse array of worms, crabs, lobsters, corals, sea cucumbers, sea spiders, starfish and many others. There are over 500,000 specimen lots, with around 13,000 type specimens (those on which the scientific description of a species is based). The collection represents one of the oldest, largest, most diverse and best-studied assemblages of Australasian and Indo-Pacific invertebrate taxa. The collection has a focus on material from Australia, particularly New South Wales, but also has strong holdings for most taxa across the Indo-Pacific region as well as important samples from other international locations.

To date approximately 46% of the collection has been digitised, meaning photographic images of the specimens have been taken and their records uploaded on to the Australian Museum's digital database. We are looking for applicants to help with digitisation. This exciting project will involve exploring the marine invertebrate collections, handling and taking photographs of specimens and helping with curation of the collections.

*NB. Placements available Terms 3 & 4.*

## Museum Experience and Engagement

### Climate Change Projects

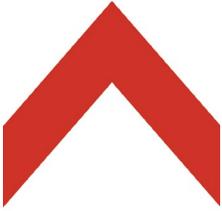
Natural history museums world-wide are coming to the fore as significant players in climate change research. What may have once been considered esoteric collections of dead animals and artefacts, museums are now recognised as holding a time vault of specimens with carefully recorded data that represent the world's biodiversity throughout our recent and ancient history. By using museums as a window to the past, scientists can compare historical taxonomic, ecological or genetic information with the present and perhaps gain an understanding of what may happen in the future – essentially using museum collections as a benchmark for monitoring the environmental impacts of climate change. The Climate Change Project team works on the cultural dimensions of climate change, focusing on communities in Australia and the Pacific, as well as contributing to international networks of museums engaging with climate change.

*NB. Placements available in Terms 3 & 4, except school holidays.*

### 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.

*NB. Placements available in Term 3.*



### **Digital Experience**

The Digital Experience team works collaboratively across Divisions and with agencies and industry partners on development of innovative digital products inspired by the AM's natural & cultural collections and scientific research. The team also lead the production of digital products for citizen science as well as gamified locative mobile app experiences, accessible audio tours and gallery multimedia interactives at the museum.

*NB. Placements only available in July.*

### **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.

*NB. Placements available in Terms 3 & 4.*

***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 at [learning.services@australian.museum](mailto:learning.services@australian.museum) or on (02) 9320 6313. We encourage queries from students directly.***

# AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### 2021 APPLICATION FORM

2021 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			
2021 year level			
School contact name		Position	
Phone number		Email	

Preferred dates (NB. Earliest intake is Mon 12 July and latest intake is Mon 6 December)			
Start Monday	Preference 1	/ /	Preference 2 / / Preference 3 / /

Chosen area of specialisation (Information about the Museum departments available for work experience can be found in pages 7-8 of this document. Please consider specialisation available which are listed at the bottom of each description when making your choices.)	
Preference 1	
Preference 2	
Preference 3	

#### Applicant Checklist (Please include the following information with your application.)

- A brief resume including personal details and any relevant skills, interests, hobbies etc
- 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 area(s) of specialisation?
  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?
- A statement of recommendation from your school Careers Advisor or other appropriate senior staff member to support your application
- A personal reference, if available

Send this application form together with documents listed above to:

**Work Experience Coordinator**  
**Australian Museum**  
**1 William Street**  
**Sydney NSW 2010**  
**OR Learning.services@australian.museum**  
*Receipt of applications will be acknowledged by email.*