



AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

# WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM - 2020



February 2020

**AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM**

1 William Street Sydney  
NSW 2010 Australia  
T 61 2 9320 6000  
[australianmuseum.net.au](http://australianmuseum.net.au)



**AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM**



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## **ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM**

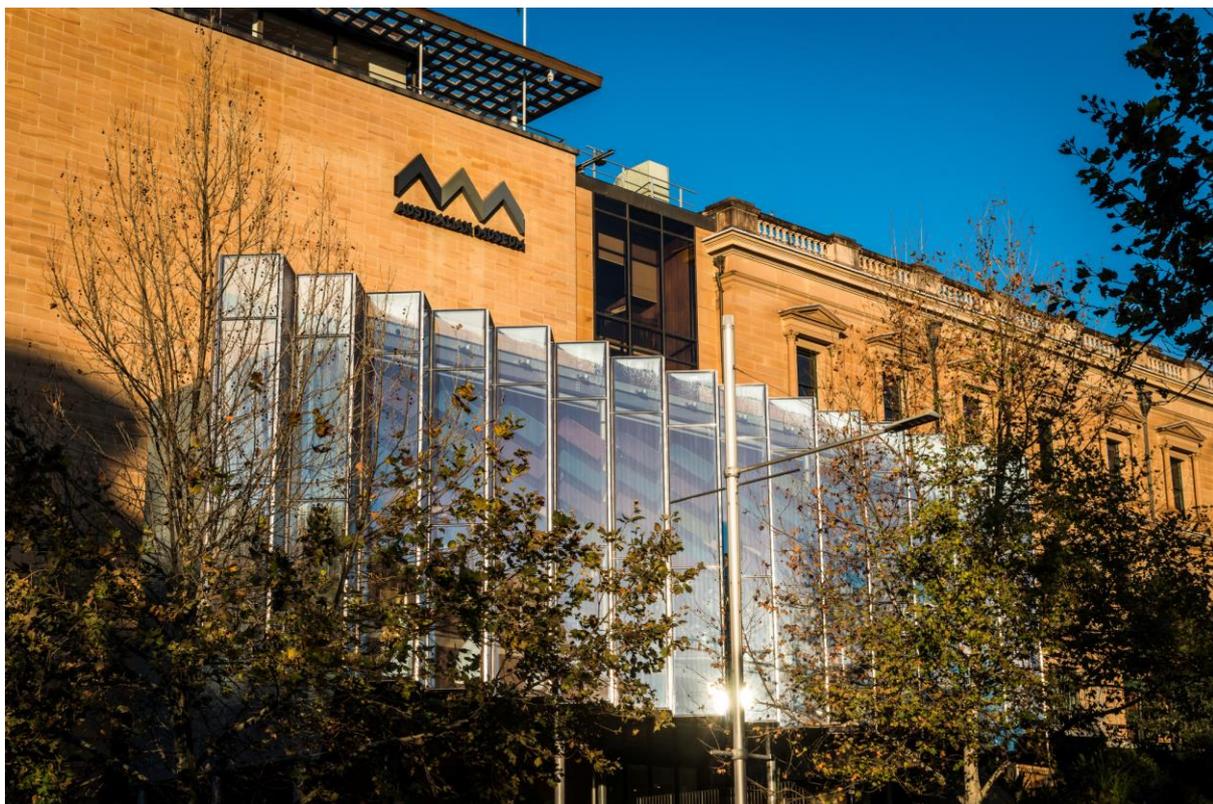
Australia's first public museum was established in Sydney in 1827 with the aim of procuring 'many rare and curious specimens of Natural History'.

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.





## **WORK EXPERIENCE IN 2020**

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.

Due to Project Discover (our redevelopment project) limited placements will be available in 2020, and placements will only be available during Term 4. The program is available for students in years 10, 11 and 12 and each placement is limited to 5 days (Monday to Friday) working 10am to 4pm each day.

### **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 Term 4 2020
- 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 2 March 2020**
- **Close Friday 3 April 2020**

Successful applicants will be notified between Monday 27 April and Friday 1 May.

*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 6-10 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.

## **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 2020 will be notified during the first week of Term 2, from **Monday 27 April**.



# AREAS OF SPECIALISATION AVAILABLE FOR WORK EXPERIENCE IN 2020

## Australian Museum Research Institute

### Marine Invertebrates

The Australian Museum Marine Invertebrate collection includes over twenty major groups of marine invertebrates with the exception of molluscs. The collection also includes freshwater and terrestrial representatives. The collection includes over 13,000 type specimens (those on which the scientific description of a species is based) and 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. Approximately 46% of the collection has been digitised by staff and volunteers. Photographic images of the specimens have been taken and their records uploaded on to the Museum's digital database. This task is ongoing and increases each time new material is added to the collection.

*NB. Placements available 12-16 October only.*

### Ichthyology

Ichthyology is the study of fishes. There are estimated to be over 32,500 species of fishes worldwide and nearly 5,000 in Australia. Fishes are cold-blooded (mostly) animals that have:

- gills for breathing
- a backbone or a notochord (a cartilaginous rod)
- fins (most species but not all)
- scales (most species but not all)

The AM Ichthyology collection consists of both adult and larval fish specimens. It is most likely the largest in the Southern Hemisphere and is the fourth largest collection of Primary Type species in the world. The overall size of the collection is estimated to be approximately 194,086 lots made up of 650,000 adult and 1,000,000 larvae specimens. The collection, of which 100 percent has been digitised, also consists of 2,500 Type specimens dating back to the 1800s, upon which the original scientific description of the relevant species was based. The geographic coverage of the collection is primarily that of the Indo-Pacific region, however we have fish specimens from all continents and oceans. Particular strengths include, New South Wales, Great Barrier Reef, temperate rocky reefs, mesopelagic waters from the upper slope to 1000m depth and Indo-Pacific Islands.

*NB. Placements available 12-16, 19-23 and 26-30 October only.*

### Geosciences (Mineralogy and Petrology)

Mineralogy and petrology are the study of minerals and rocks. Minerals are classified in species according to their chemical composition and crystal structure. Rocks are made up of aggregates of minerals. The AM Mineral and Petrology collection consists of 68,149 registered specimens, primarily made up of minerals, but also including 19,230 rocks (including 755 meteorites) and 8 Type specimens. Approximately 46 percent of the collection is digitised and stored across locations including the Australian Museum site in the Sydney CBD, Castle Hill Discovery Centre and the Bathurst Fossil and Mineral Museum.

*NB. Placements available 2-6 and 23-27 November only.*



## **Palaeontology**

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 consists of specimens of fossil invertebrates, vertebrates and plants, most of which are Australian. There is also a wide selection of material from outside Australia. Particular strengths of the collection include Australian fossil mammals and fossil fish.

*NB. Placements available in Term 4.*

## **Engagement, Exhibitions and Cultural Connection**

### **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 Term 4.*

### **International Collections**

The Australian Museum's Cultural Collection dates back to the first half of the nineteenth century. The International Collection include objects from Ancient Egypt, Africa, China, Indonesia (Bali), Canada and Peru. The International Collections team records details of the objects, the communities where these objects are from; cares for the objects as a record of the past and for the future; and, shares the knowledge and information about the objects and communities.

*NB. Placements available in Term 4.*

### **Pacific Collections**

Covering a third of the earth, the Pacific is home to vibrant and diverse cultures that speak a quarter of the world's languages. The Australian Museum's Pacific Collection represent these living cultures with thousands of artworks, cultural technologies and archaeological material from across Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. We work closely with communities from across the Pacific region to maintain and interpret our collections and promote greater understanding of Pacific cultures. This ensures our collections maintain a vital connection with contemporary communities and living cultures. Repatriation is a common and welcome practice for the Museum back to Pacific nations. Our collections are also the foundation for wide-ranging research encompassing the material culture, history and archaeology of the Pacific. Our primary focus is on the Melanesian nations of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

*NB. Placements 19-23 and 26-30 October only.*

### **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 4.*



### **Public Programs**

This department produces a variety of museum visitor events such as school holiday programs and adult programs and manages the Science Festival in August as part of the Sydney Science Festival. 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.

*NB. Placements available in November only.*

### **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 available in Term 4.*

### **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 Term 4.*

## **Marketing and Communications**

### **Australian Museum Members**

The Marketing and Communications team is responsible for the majority of the audience related communication of the Museum. They are responsible for promoting the Museums offer, servicing Museum members and aim to increase membership participation and conduct all media and social media within the Museum. The AM Members Team leads the membership experience program at the Australian Museum

*NB. Placements available 9-13 and 16-20 November only.*

***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@austrmus.gov.au](mailto:learning.services@austrmus.gov.au) or on (02) 9320 6317. We encourage queries from students directly.***

# AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### 2020 APPLICATION FORM

2020 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			
2020 year level			
School contact name		Position	
Phone number		Email	

Preferred dates (NB. Earliest intake is Mon 12 October and latest intake is Mon 30 November)		
Preference 1	Preference 2	Preference 3

Chosen area of specialisation (Information about the Museum departments available for work experience can be found in pages 6-8 of this document. Please consider specialisation dates 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.)	
<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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why have you applied for a work experience placement at the Australian Museum?</li> <li>2. Why have you chosen this/these area(s) of specialisation?</li> <li>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?</li> </ol>
<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.*