

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

Work experience 2024



AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

1 William Street Sydney

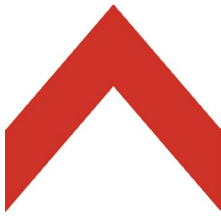
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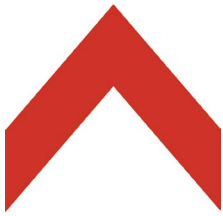
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AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM



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About the Australian Museum

For over 190 years, the Australian Museum has been at the forefront of Australian scientific research, collection and education. 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. The collection was housed in various buildings around Sydney until colonial architect Mortimer Lewis designed a dedicated 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.

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 21 million cultural and scientific objects. Through exhibitions and other public programs, the Australian Museum continues to inform and amaze generations of visitors with natural history, and cultures of Australia and the Pacific.

Our mission

To ignite wonder, inspire debate and drive change.

Our vision

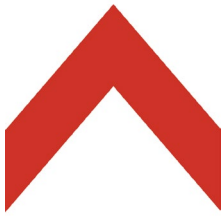
To be a leading voice for the richness of life, the Earth and culture in Australia and the Pacific. We commit to transform the conversation around climate change, the environment and wildlife conservation; be a strong advocate for First Nations' culture; and continue to develop world-leading science, 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 First Nations Peoples of Australia and the Pacific, 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 mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and countless invertebrates that tell many stories about our unique wildlife.



Work experience in 2024

Every day at the Australian Museum (AM) 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

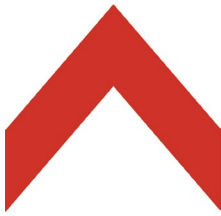
- Placements are open to NSW secondary school students in Years 10, 11 and 12.
- Offered during Terms 3 and 4 2024, over four possible weeks.
 - July 22–26
 - September 9–13
 - October 14–18
 - November 11–15
- Each placement is limited to 5 days (Monday to Friday), working 10am–4pm each day.
- A maximum 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.



Application

- **Open Monday, 11 March 2024**
- **Close Friday, 3 May 2024**

Successful applicants will be notified the week of Monday 3 June.

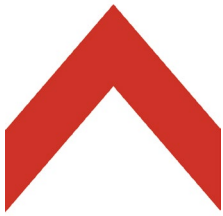
Please note: The work experience program at the Australian Museum is in high demand and the number of applications outweighs the number of places available each year. We recommend that you are fully aware of our process dates as outlined above and have alternative arrangements in place in case your application is unsuccessful.

To be considered, applicants must submit a work experience placement application form (on the [Australian Museum website](#)), including:

1. Nominating preferred dates based on availability and interest (areas of specialisation outlined in pages 6-7 of this document).
2. Providing a statement of interest, answering the following questions (no more than 100 words each):
 - a. Why have you applied for a work experience placement at the Australian Museum?
 - b. What do you hope to achieve by spending a week working at the Australian Museum, and how will it help you in your future?
3. Provide a statement of recommendation from your school Careers Advisor or other appropriate senior staff member to support your application.

Selection

- Selection for placement will be based on the applicant's statement of interest in seeking a placement, their expected outcomes and their statement of recommendation from their School's Careers Advisor or other appropriate senior staff member.
- All successful applicants for 2024 will be notified the week of Monday, 3 June 2024.



Areas of specialisation available in 2024

Palaeontology Collection

Palaeontology is the study of fossils – the remains or traces of prehistoric living things. The Australian Museum Palaeontology Collection consists of approximately 170 000 specimens including fossil invertebrates, vertebrates and plants, most of which are Australian. There is also a wide selection of material from outside Australia.

During your time with the palaeontology team, you will assist the palaeontology staff with registering, organizing and identifying the fossils.

Placements only available 22–26 July.

Ichthyology Collection

Ichthyology is the study of fishes. There are estimated to be over 35,000 species of fishes worldwide and over 5,000 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.

Placements only available 9–13 September.

Entomology Collection

Entomology is the study of insects including flies, cicadas, moths, earwigs, fleas, bugs, cockroaches, bees, dragonflies, and termites. Insects are the most diverse group of terrestrial organisms, and this is reflected in the Australian Museum Entomology collection. This is the second largest insect collection in Australia and the largest collection in the Museum. The Australian Museum Entomology collection consists of an estimated 1.699 million specimens.

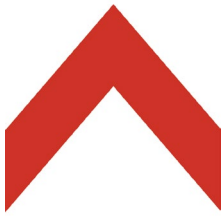
Placements only available 14–18 October.

Arachnology Collection

The Australian Museum Arachnology collection is dominated by arachnids (spiders, mites, ticks, harvestmen, scorpions and other relatives). We also care for other animal groups that have eight legs, such as tardigrades (water bears), and several groups that have many more than eight legs: centipedes, millipedes and relatives plus velvet worms.

During your time with the Arachnology team, you will help build the collection by sorting some of these “Micro Monsters” into major groups under a microscope and get some understanding of the amazing diversity of forest creatures.

Placements only available 11–15 November.



Design

The Design team plays a critical role in the planning, development & delivery of exhibitions, displays, campaigns and programs for the Australian Museum. They work across various mediums in print & digital, including model making & 3D visualisations. The team includes 3D exhibitions designers & 2D graphic designers.

Digital

The Digital Experience team works collaboratively across AM divisions and with digital design and development agencies on production of innovative digital products, inspired by the AM's natural science and cultural collections. The team produces digital content for the AM website including video productions, interactive virtual tours and accessible audio guides, as well as citizen science mobile apps and exhibition multimedia.

Placements only available 9–13 September

Operations

The core objective in building services is to ensure everything is safe, looks good, and is in working order. The team develop processes and maintenance schedules to ensure organisations get maximum utility from their buildings, which can include both the assets and equipment inside and around the structure. That means facility maintenance covers a wide range of trade disciplines and museum areas, including exhibition spaces, education centres, electrical, plumbing, roofing and landscaping.

Development

The Development team is responsible for raising funds to support and enhance the Museum's work above what is afforded through our operational funding by the Government. Increasingly, philanthropy is providing core revenue to arts and cultural institutions in Australia as we see an uptick in philanthropic giving across the board. The development team works collaboratively across the AM to facilitate a culture of philanthropy (that is, an understanding of its institution-wide importance) across all departments. Some of these departments are Marketing, Communications, Programming, Venues, Front of House, First Nations, Education, and the Australian Museum Research Institute (AMRI). This collegiality is critical to our success as it allows us to build an understanding of our donor relationships across the Museum and allows us to work together in creating sophisticated and unique experiences for our donors.

Placements available 22-26 July, 9-13 September and 11-15 November.

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. We encourage queries from students directly.