

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM 2023



AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

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australian.museum



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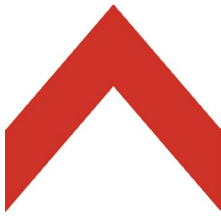
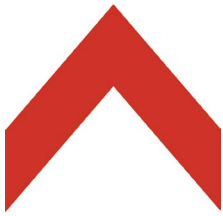


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ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

For over 190 years, the Australian Museum has been at the forefront of Australian scientific research, collection and education.

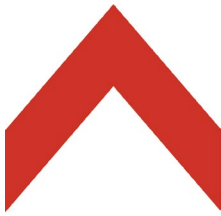
Australia's first public museum was established in Sydney in 1827 with the aim of procuring "many rare and curious specimens of Natural History."

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. 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 21 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

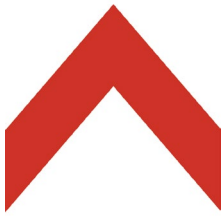
To be a leading voice for the richness of life, the Earth and culture in Australia and the Pacific. We commit to transform the conversation around climate change, the environment and wildlife conservation; be a strong advocate for First Nations' culture; and continue to develop world-leading science,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



WORK EXPERIENCE IN 2023

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

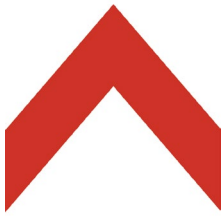
- Placements are open to NSW secondary school students in Years 10, 11 and 12.
- Offered during Terms 3 and 4 2023, over four possible weeks.
- Each placement is limited to 5 days (Monday to Friday), working 10am to 4pm each day.
- A maximum of 2 placements will be offered per school, each year.

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 13 March 2023**
- **Close Friday 5 May 2023**

Successful applicants will be notified the week of Monday 5 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. 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.

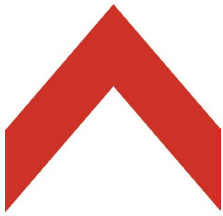
Application process

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

1. Nominating preferred areas of specialisation (detailed in pages 7-9 of this document) and preferred dates.
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. Why have you chosen this/these key area(s) of specialisation?
 - 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 statement of recommendation from your school Careers Advisor or other appropriate senior staff member to support your application.

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 2023 will be notified the week of Monday 5 June.



AREAS OF SPECIALISATION AVAILABLE FOR WORK EXPERIENCE IN 2023

Australian Museum Research Institute

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.

NB: Placements available in week 16-20 October.

Mineralogy and Petrology Collection

The Australian Museum Mineral collection covers approximately 80,000 specimens: 60,700 minerals and 19,300 rocks. 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.

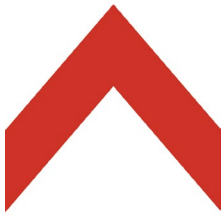
The Australian Museum holds Australia's oldest and most diverse meteorite and tektite collections. Meteorites are rocks that come from outside earth, and tektites are earth-rocks that have been melted by meteoric impacts. Australian meteorites include several rare types and have been important for research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

NB: Placements available in week 11-15 September.

Marine Invertebrates

The Australian Museum Marine Invertebrates 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 in week 11-15 September.



Mammalogy Collection

Mammalogy is the study of mammals. Mammals include placental mammals such as rodents, primates and whales; marsupials such as kangaroos and koalas; and monotremes such as the platypus and echidna. The Australian Museum Mammalogy collection is one of the most comprehensive collections of Australian and Pacific mammals in the world. Some of the biggest collections are from Australia, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and the Solomon Islands. Among the most important specimens in the collection are the more than 800 type specimens (types are the original specimens on which the first description of a particular species or subspecies is based). Other important specimens are the extinct species about which little is known, such as the Pig-footed Bandicoot, Eastern Hare-wallaby, and the Thylacine.

NB: Placements available in week 16-20 October.

Museum Experience and Engagement

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.

NB: Placements available in week 11-15 September & 20-24 November.

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 for the Museum.

NB: Placements available in week 11-15 September & 20-24 November.

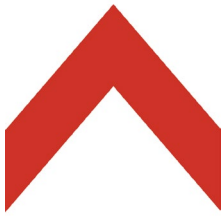
Education

The Education team delivers the Museum's informal and formal learning programs including face-to-face learning programs, virtual excursions, and digital initiatives, all which aim to create an environment to stimulate curiosity and motivate learning. The Education team has a portfolio of primary and secondary school programs, virtual excursions, the Museum's *Ask an Expert* program, and social media. Education prioritises science and First Nations cultures, and aims to engage all learners on issues affecting biodiversity and sustainability.

NB: Placements available in Terms 3 & 4.

Public Affairs & 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. Investment in philanthropy is a key strategic priority for the Museum as we look to expand our research, education and collection capabilities. 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. In doing so we can foster positive relationships that we hope, will convert to lifelong donations and support.

NB: Placements available week 24-28 July.

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.