

Q & A

with a past participant...

Internships



Name: Joe Hamlin

Home University: University of Ohio

AustraLearn Program: Sports Marketing Internship in Sydney, Australia

Joe Hamlin, from Athens, Ohio, journeyed across the South Pacific to intern with Basketball Australia in Sydney. It was a time of many firsts for Joe – his first time abroad, his first internship, even his first time on a plane...ever!

He considers his time at Basketball Australia as the most valuable experience in his life. He also feels it is one of the main reasons he is now working as a Business Development Specialist with the Cleveland Cavaliers. In between meetings and games, we found some time to talk to Joe and hear his perspective on the experience.

How was the AustraLearn Program Introduction?

It was like a dreamland. We met up with the AustraLearn staff at the airport, and over the next few days, they gave us all this great information about banking, cell phones, culture – everything we needed to know to get started. It was nice to have a familiar face and to know someone was waiting for us in Australia.

What was it like when you first arrived at your internship placement?

There were two of us who were placed at Basketball Australia. A few days after we got to Australia, we sat down with the Communications Coordinator, Marc, to discuss what we wanted to get out of the experience and where we wanted to be in five years. He wanted to know what skills we brought to the table and what opportunities they could offer us, because they were interested in how the internship could benefit us in the future.

What kinds of duties did you have during the internship?

We didn't really have specific duties like you do as an intern in the U.S. They didn't look at us as interns, and they didn't treat us that way either. The Aussie approach to work is "do a great job and have fun along the way". We did everything from going out

on sales calls, helping out the marketing team, and helping out with games. We were given the opportunity to try lots of different things, so we were expected to step up. Every week we would grab a coffee with Marc and talk about how we were feeling about the internship. He was curious to know what we liked and what we didn't, and he presented us with opportunities based on our preferences.

Was there one opportunity that stood out in your mind?

People who love sports and work in the industry work hard, and they work a lot. I found that out firsthand when I took part in the Australian Junior Championships with some of the other interns. We were responsible for running 128 games in eight days and sometimes we were on from 8AM until midnight. It was exhausting, but it was an absolute blast – totally worth it!

Do you think your internship helped you after returning home?

It was the best thing I could have done! I hadn't really considered sports before interning at Basketball Australia. It was a good wakeup call, and the whole experience was a great confidence booster.

The **AustraLearn Internship Program** offers high quality internship placements in Australia and New Zealand to students of all majors and career interests. The placements provide invaluable work experience in a welcoming international work environment that will enhance your resume and your career skills. The 10-week internship program is available spring, summer, or fall, and academic credit is available.



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