

Q & A

with a past participant...

Internships



Name: Kristen Howell

Home University: Bethany College

AustraLearn Program: TV Production Internship in Newcastle, Australia

Kristen Howell, an Electronic Media (Radio/TV) major from Canfield, Ohio, interned at the main bureau of a local television station, NBN Television in Newcastle, New South Wales, in July 2005. She knew she wanted to go abroad but was originally thinking about Spain. She thought Australia was wonderful though, and she says, “if I didn’t have school to come back to, I probably would have stayed.”

How did AustraLearn help you prepare for your time abroad?

I couldn’t believe how perfect the AustraLearn program was – they made it so easy to arrange everything. They got me set up in an apartment and even gave me suggestions on what to pack! The orientation was extremely helpful in those first few days.

What was your favorite part of the internship?

They let me have absolute free reign, and if I volunteered for something, I was able to do it. I went on assignments with the news team, got a chance to do some reporting and interviewing, did voiceovers, and got some hand-on experience in editing. I did very few administrative tasks because they wanted to immerse me in the field. This way I got lots of experience in many different areas of production.

Did you have any concerns about interning abroad?

I knew I was willing to do pretty much anything, but I was a little nervous about being on my own. I kept wondering if I would like my placement and if they would like me. I had nothing to worry about. The people at the station were phenomenal – right away I was welcomed with open arms. The news team was so friendly. I thought it might be a “one-way” friendship, but they were sincerely interested in me. We all became great friends, and I’m still in touch with them today.

Did your internship experience change your perspective on your own career goals and attitude?

Definitely. The people I worked with were career-driven and intelligent, but work didn’t take over their life. I’m a high-stress person, but they were so relaxed even when they were on a deadline. We always got the projects done, but nothing felt rushed. I loved the pace of life in Australia – it took a little getting used to but, once I got it, it was wonderful!

As far as a career, I wasn’t 100% sure that TV was what I wanted to do, but this experience solidified that this is what I was meant to do with my life.

Do you consider your internship in Australia to be a valuable part of your education?

It was extremely valuable! When I came back, I felt more prepared to handle situations at a news station. In my internship, I learned about both on-camera and behind-the-scenes work so I gained confidence in my abilities. The last semester of my senior year, I was the director of the school news station, and I ran the whole news crew for our broadcasts twice a week.

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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