

Chapter 10

Australian National Internships Program

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Director of Program

The Australian National Internships Program provides senior undergraduates with the opportunity to undertake, for academic credit, a designated research project within the workplace. Students may be from an Australian or overseas university, from any discipline (former interns have been students of political science or policy studies, economics or commerce, law, geography, science, Asian or European studies, development studies, environmental studies, social work, psychology, sports studies, music).

All placements are in Canberra, for 11 weeks, possibilities include:

- the Commonwealth Parliament (with a Senator, Member, parliamentary committee or parliamentary department)
- the Australian Public Service (with government departments or statutory authorities, such as the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, AusAID, Australian Strategic Policy Institute or Department of the Environment and Heritage)
- the ACT Legislative Assembly and ACT Public Service or
- non-government peak and community organisations (these range from industry associations such as the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the National Farmers Federation or the Motor Trades Association of Australia, to organisations such as the Australian Council for International Development, Australian Institute of International Affairs, Community and Public Sector Union).

Prerequisites

Students are admitted by a Selection Committee which meets twice a year (November and May). Minimum requirements are that students are in their third year of academic study and that the internship will be officially credited to their degree by their home university.

Students therefore need to consult and obtain permission from their course adviser or a letter of cross-institutional support.

Public Sector Internship A INTN3004 (18 units)

Later Year Course
Semester 1 and Semester 2
Coordinator: Associate Professor Campbell

Syllabus: This course is most suitable for undergraduates, overseas students and others with an interest in current public policy issues. Students complete course work on the policy making process during the semester and a placement for two days a week over an 11 week period, backed by a weekly workshop.

Proposed Assessment: A written or oral presentation on the course work; a research report to a maximum of 8,000 words; an oral presentation on the research report; and a reflective essay.

Public Sector Internship B INTN3005 (12 units)

Later Year Course
Semester 1 and Semester 2

This course is especially suitable for students completing joint degrees and/or students with a solid background in public policy. There is no coursework component. Following an orientation program the Internship placement is for 11 weeks.

Coordinator: Associate Professor Campbell

Syllabus: The Internship placement will be for two days a week over an 11 week period, backed by a weekly workshop.

Proposed Assessment: A research report to a maximum of 8,000 words; an oral presentation on the research report; and a reflective essay.

Public Sector Internship C INTN3006 (18 units)

Later Year Course
Semester 1 and Semester 2

This course is especially suitable for students who already possess strong research skills and wish to complete a significant project. There is no coursework component. Following an orientation program the Internship placement is for 11 weeks.

Coordinator: Associate Professor Campbell

Syllabus: The Internship placement will be for four days a week over an 11 week period, and will be backed by a weekly workshop.

Proposed Assessment: A research report to a maximum of 16,000 words; an oral presentation on the research report; and a reflective essay.

