

Murdoch University

fall / spring / academic year / calendar year



art / australian studies / biological sciences / business / communications / cultural studies / education / engineering and technology / environmental studies / humanities / information and computer sciences / internship / legal studies / management / political science / public policy / science / veterinary science



program snapshot

- Full-time local academic and personal support provided by on-site Resident Director, who arranges excursions, volunteer opportunities, and cultural events
- Full range of academic offerings; dedicated on-campus CIEE Study Center; for-credit internships
- 10-day trip to Pilbara, the Northwest area of Western Australia
- Local activities, including a surfing lesson and an Australian Rules football match
- Weekend homestays with rural families

what you'll learn

The program is designed to provide a critical appreciation of Australia and its regional setting, while students pursue their own academic interests at one of Australia's top universities. Students gain an understanding of Australian society and its connections with Asia, while pursuing a wide range of academics and recreational activities. Integration with Australian students and other opportunities to become immersed in the local society enable students to go beyond observation and become full participants in the host culture.

thoughts from abroad

For anyone wishing to experience sun, adventure, and an amazing natural environment along with friendly people, then a semester or year studying at Murdoch University, Western Australia is the ideal study abroad choice. The climate and pristine environment, from the temperate rain forest of the southwest to tropical beaches and national park lands of the north, make outdoor sports and recreation possible all year-round. During the semester, students will have the opportunity to dive with the world's largest fish—the whale shark, snorkel with sea turtles, swim with wild dolphins, walk amongst the tops of ancient trees, sleep under a canopy of stars in the Outback, or surf some of the best surf breaks in the world at Margaret River.

Life in Perth and Fremantle, the smaller port town eight miles down river from the city of Perth, offers everything one would expect from a vibrant cosmopolitan city. Perth has developed its own unique character where lifestyle is a high priority. Fremantle, with its Italian fishing background, is particularly famous for its al fresco street life and café culture, where sipping a latté and watching the world pass by are favorite activities of the locals.

— Paul Hollick, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

Paul Hollick has worked with the CIEE program in Perth since 2001 and has a wide range of experience in the fields of tertiary and sports administration and recreation. His work with CIEE has given him considerable experience in revealing his native state of Western Australia to students from across the U.S. Though he has lived most of his life in Perth, Paul has traveled extensively in Europe, Southeast Asia, and the United States. Paul's B.S.c degree in Environmental Science from Edith Cowan University is just one part of his life-long commitment to the environment and all things green. His other interests include football, rugby, camping, water sports, and all outdoor recreation.

about perth

Perth is the state capital of Western Australia. With a population of 1.5 million people, its many contrasts range from skyscrapers and nightlife to over 30 miles of white sandy beaches. It is ranked Australia's most environmentally attractive city, has more hours of sunshine than any other Australian city, and was ranked in a 2002 survey as one of the world's top three lifestyle destinations. The local population enjoys a cosmopolitan outdoor lifestyle; first-class cultural, social, and recreational amenities; and excellent proximity to the major cities of Asia.

academics

Academic Program

Established in 1991 as the first CIEE program in Australia, the Arts and Sciences program at the CIEE Study Center at Murdoch University has hosted hundreds of students from universities across the U.S. The CIEE Study Center provides a supportive, yet challenging environment in which to study and gain firsthand knowledge of Australian life and culture. In addition to a wide range of liberal arts subjects, Murdoch University has particularly strong offerings in media studies, communications, and field-based sciences. A Parliamentary internship is also offered during the fall semester.

Academic Culture

All courses are taught by Murdoch faculty, with Murdoch staff enjoying one of the highest proportions of doctorates of all Australian universities. Murdoch University uses a point system, and the normal full-time course load is 12 points each semester, which is equivalent to 15 U.S. semester credits. Most Murdoch University subjects are designated as either three- or four-point classes. Students are eligible to enroll in any course for which they are qualified, with the exception of a few specialized subjects offered by the Veterinary and Chiropractic Schools.

The approach to teaching in Australian universities requires that students take a great deal of responsibility for their own learning. A typical subject consists of two hours of lectures and one to two hours of tutorials and, in the sciences, lab work, per week. Many science classes also involve fieldwork. While contact hours are not high, students are expected to undertake a significant amount of directed reading on their own time. Self-motivation and self-discipline are encouraged by the Australian system.

The Murdoch University academic year lasts from early February through the end of November and is divided into two semesters.

Semester I (early February to mid-June) corresponds to the spring semester at U.S. institutions and Semester II (late July to late November) corresponds to the U.S. fall semester. The program at Murdoch University is offered both semesters and consists of a one-week orientation, 12 weeks of classes, a two-week mid-semester break, a one-week study period, and a two-week final exam period. The academic year program consists of two consecutive semesters and may follow the U.S. academic year (Semester II and Semester I) or the Australian calendar year (Semester I followed by Semester II). Students who apply for the U.S. academic year program can take advantage of the three-month summer (Christmas) break to work or travel in the region.

Nature of Classes

Participants enroll directly in host university courses and take classes with Australian students.

Grading System

Assessment is normally based on essays, project reports, midterms, tutorial/seminar participation and performance, and practical and final exams. Murdoch University employs a five-point grading system: High Distinction (HD); Distinction (D); Credit (C); Pass (P); and Fail (F). Grades are converted to a U.S. grading scale.



where you'll study

Murdoch University is one of Australia's leading universities, and the only university in the country to achieve *The Good Universities Guide's* five-star rating for graduate satisfaction for 12 out of the last 13 years. Over 15,000 students are enrolled in the three major academic divisions: arts; science and engineering; and health sciences. Over 2,000 international students from approximately 40 different countries are currently enrolled. Murdoch University is situated in the suburbs of Perth (30 minutes from downtown), and students usually divide their social time between the city centers of Perth and Fremantle, both easily accessible by public transportation.

living

Housing and Meals

Students are assigned furnished housing on campus at Murdoch University Village, which provides high-quality, multicultural living facilities. A range of modern, fully furnished five bedroom apartments, with private bedrooms, large kitchens, and spacious lounge areas are available to students. Contemporary solar passive design and in-room pay-per-use Internet provide functional and vibrant spaces designed specifically for the student lifestyle.

Students choosing the U.S. academic year program beginning in July are responsible for housing during the summer recess (December to mid-February). Students choosing the U.S. calendar year program beginning in February are responsible for their own housing during the recess in July. Meals are not included in the program fee and are the responsibility of the student.

Online Pre-Departure and On-Site Orientations

Students begin their study abroad experience in Perth before even leaving home—by participating in a CIEE Online Pre-Departure Orientation. Meeting with students online, the Resident Director shares information about the program and site, highlighting issues that alumni have said are important, and giving students time to ask any questions before leaving home. The online orientation allows students to connect with others in the group, reflect on what they want to get out of the program, and learn what others in the group would like to accomplish. The CIEE goal for the pre-departure orientation is simple: to help students understand more about the program and site, as well as their goals for the program, so that they arrive to the program well-informed and return home having made significant progress toward their goals.

The one-week mandatory CIEE orientation, conducted in Perth at the beginning of the program, introduces students to Australian society and culture and the academic environment at Murdoch. It also provides practical information about living in the Perth/Fremantle area. At the end of orientation week, CIEE students participate in a catered weekend excursion to beautiful Rottnest Island in February, or to the temperate rainforest region of the state's southwest in July. Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program.

Internet

Murdoch University has a fee-for-usage system for Internet access. Students add money to their Murdoch University card for Internet use and are responsible for all fees. CIEE participants have access to the Internet and email in several computer labs throughout campus and at no charge in the CIEE office. In addition, students can obtain an Internet connection in on-campus housing at their own expense through a local provider.

eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75

duration

Fall

18 weeks: late July–late November

Spring

19 weeks: early February–mid-June

Academic Year

50 weeks: late July–mid-June

Calendar Year

40 weeks: early February–late November

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

The program includes a variety of excursions and activities focusing on Australian culture and environment, such as Australian Rules football, an Aboriginal Heritage Tour, bush walking, and excursions to museums, theaters, and art galleries. Students take part in a surfing lesson, experiencing some of the world's best surf beaches.

In addition, there are opportunities for weekend homestays with rural families, and the chance to undertake community work in study-related areas. Students may also participate in additional trips arranged outside of the typical excursion program for an extra fee. In the past, students have traveled to Thailand and Borneo. Many students also independently achieve scuba diving certification.

Northwest Excursion

The Northwest Excursion, included in the program fee, is a trip to the rugged northwest region of Western Australia to an area known as the Pilbara. The Pilbara covers close to 2,500 miles and includes plains of wild flowers and mountainous outcrops—among the oldest on earth. It is also home to some of Australia's most hardy fauna and flora. Students may come across the shy rock wallaby, the perentie lizard, grey and red kangaroos, and many other unique animals.

Monkey Mia in Shark Bay is one of the high-



internship

Parliamentary Internship

The University offers qualified, ambitious students the opportunity to undertake a fully accredited internship in political science and public administration, which includes working with members of the State's parliament under the supervision of Murdoch faculty members. Topics that students can work on vary widely. The program began in 1992, with Murdoch University students participating since its inception. Students intending to apply for this internship must check with their own institution in the U.S. prior to registration to ensure that credit earned will transfer. The internship is worth eight Murdoch University credit points. This option is offered in the U.S. fall semester only.

fremantle

Fremantle is the city closest to Murdoch University and is located approximately 12 miles southwest from downtown Perth. Fremantle is a port city located at the mouth of the Swan River on Australia's western coast. The city is popular with diners, catering to all tastes and budgets. There are numerous cafés and coffee shops situated around Fremantle, particularly on its famous "Cappuccino Strip." Fremantle is also popular place for the arts and its nightlife; it attracts people from all over the metropolitan region for its pubs, nightclubs, and art.

costs

CIEE Fees

Fall 2009: \$14,600

Spring 2010: available 8/15/09

Academic Year 2009–10: \$26,300

Calendar Year 2010: available 8/15/09

The CIEE program fees for 2009–10 include tuition, housing, full-time program leadership and support, optional on-site airport meet and greet, orientation, cultural activities, local excursions (including a trip to the Northwest region of Western Australia), field trips, host institution identity card, student union membership, admission fees to host university events, comprehensive student handbook, pre-departure advising, and a CIEE iNext travel card, which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Fall 2009)

Transportation	\$ 2,000
(round-trip based on U.S. West Coast departure)	
Personal Expenses	\$ 3,200
Meals	\$ 1,100
Books and Supplies*	\$ 320
Local Transportation	\$ 120
Visa Fee	\$ 450
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$ 7,190

*This includes Internet fees.

Check our website for current fees.

lights of the excursion. Monkey Mia is a World Heritage Site and attracts schools of dolphins to its shores daily. It's the closest students will get to a dolphin unless they work in a marine park. Along with the dolphins live other marine life such as the Dugongs (Manatees), called the "Mermaids of the Sea," and turtles. This area is also home to our oldest living ancestors, the Stromatolites, which have evolved over three to four billion years, as well as Shell Beach, an entire beach made of shells.

Students snorkel in the Ningaloo Reef, which is also a World Heritage Site. More accessible than the Great Barrier Reef and home to as many as 500 species of tropical fish and 200 species of coral, it is home to the migratory Whale Sharks, the "gentle giants" of the sea. Humpback Whales also cruise just beyond the reef during the months of July, October, and November.

Another highlight of the excursion is Karijini National Park. Hidden among Western Australia's mining towns, this area is untouched and pristine in beauty. While enjoying the splendor of its gorges and flora and fauna, students swim in freshwater rock pools. The hikes and trails through the gorges are challenging, as well as breathtaking with their Aboriginal drawings and wildlife. Billions of years old, the rocky gorges are spectacular in formation.

Students who do not participate on the Northwest Excursion will not be reimbursed.

coursework

Program Requirements

All students are required to take 12 Murdoch points per semester. A typical course load is three courses at Murdoch University. One course must have substantial Australian content. Students may take the CIEE Seminar on Living and Learning in addition to the typical course load of three courses.

Credit

Total recommended credit for the semester is 15–16 semester/22.5–24 quarter hours. Total recommended credit for the academic or calendar year is 30–31 semester/45–46.5 quarter hours.

Recommended credit varies from three to five U.S. credits per course. Students who are granted permission from their home school Study Abroad Advisor or CIEE Resident Director to “overload” (more than 12 Murdoch University points) may be required to pay additional registration/tuition fees to Murdoch University at the time of enrollment.

Language of Instruction

English

Faculty

All courses are taught by faculty from Murdoch University.



courses

CIEE Elective Course

CLST 3001 MURD

Seminar on Living and Learning in Perth

The Seminar on Living and Learning in Perth is designed to improve students' intercultural communication and competence while studying abroad by considering how Australians are different from and similar to themselves and others. The course offers opportunities, both in and outside the classroom, to develop insights and the skills necessary to interact effectively and appropriately, and to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the cultural richness of Australia. Contact hours: 21. Recommended credit: 1 semester/1.5 quarter hours.

Instructor: Paul Hollick

Murdoch University

The following list is a representative sample of the areas of study available at Murdoch University. A wide range of subjects (“units”) is available within each area of study. Classes normally meet for two hours of lecture and one hour of tutorial per week for 13 weeks. Science students can expect to spend more time in classes and labs. Not all subjects/units are available every semester. Please visit the Murdoch University website at www.murdoch.edu.au/index/units for course information.

To facilitate academic understanding of Australia's history, culture, and society, CIEE students are required to enroll in a course with substantial Australian content. Options include *Aboriginal Cultures*, *Aboriginal History*, *Aboriginal Issues*, *Aboriginal Writing Today*, *Australia and its Asian Context*, *Australian Cinema*, *Australian Economic History*, *Australian Environmental History*, *Australian Environmental Issues*, *Australian Foreign Policy*, *Australia in the Twentieth Century*, *Australian Literature and Film*, and *Black Indigenous Music*. Students can also study the local Nyungar language.

Arts

- Asian Studies
- Australian Indigenous Studies
- Communication and Cultural Studies
- Community Development
- English
- General Arts
- History
- Local Governance
- Mass Communication
- Media Studies
- Multimedia
- Philosophy
- Politics and International Studies
- Public Policy and Management
- Security, Terrorism, and Counterterrorism
- Sociology
- Sustainable Development
- Theology
- Tourism
- Tourism Management
- Women's Studies

Business and Information Technology

- Applied Information Technology
- Biotechnology
- Business Information Systems
- Business Law
- Commerce
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation
- Games Technology
- Human Resource Management
- Information Systems Development
- Information Technology
- International Business
- Internet Computing
- Marketing and the Media
- Multimedia Information Systems

Education

- Primary Teacher Education
- Secondary Teacher Education



Engineering

Engineering
Engineering Science
Engineering Technology
Industrial Computer Systems Engineering
Instrumentation and Control Engineering
Power Engineering
Software Engineering

Science

Analytical Chemistry
Animal Science
Chemistry
Energy Studies
Forensic Biology and Toxicology
Life Science
Marine Science
Mathematics and Statistics
Molecular Biology
Nanoscience
Physics

Veterinary/Biomedical/Chiropractic

Applied Veterinary Medicine
Biomedical Science
Chiropractic
Veterinary Biology

Parliamentary and Public Sector Internship

(fall only)

The program offers qualified, ambitious students the opportunity to undertake a fully accredited internship in political science and public administration, which includes working with members of the State's parliament or State government departments under the supervision of Murdoch faculty members. The Parliamentary Internship is offered through the School of Politics and International Studies at the University, and students must adhere to its standards and guidelines in order to receive credit. Students who successfully complete the internship will receive eight Murdoch credit points. Individual project assignments and weekly workload vary with each student. Students intending to apply for this internship must check with their own institution in the U.S. prior to registration to ensure that credit earned will transfer.

a student's story

When I received the opportunity to study abroad in Perth, Western Australia, I had many of the same fears and concerns that most students have when planning to study overseas. But unlike many others, I had to plan for physical accommodations and advocate for myself as a person with a disability.

The trip to Northwest Australia was my biggest, yet most rewarding challenge thus far. I was persuaded to go by my CIEE study advisors; they believed in my ability to overcome the physical barriers and have an enjoyable trip. I camped out in tents in the middle of nowhere with flies, mosquitoes, dirt, and not a handicapped bathroom in sight. The hardest part of the trip—trusting in people I didn't know to help me—was the most rewarding. I left for the trip putting my trust in strangers, and I returned a week later with trustworthy friends. Before I knew it, I was snorkeling in Coral Bay Western Australia and reading a book at the bottom of a gorge in Karijini National Park, after two rocky piggy back rides down. My wheelchair has been rolled in some of the most beautiful places in Western Australia. I tell my friends that if they go to the Outback, they may still see my tire tracks imprinted in the red dirt.

So in many ways, my study abroad experience as a person with a disability has not been that much different than having a disability in my home country. The same methods and personal qualities that I have had to use to overcome physical and social barriers throughout my entire life, I have also used here. I approached every challenge with an open mind, an open heart, and a willingness to try and to learn something new. So far, this method to learning and enjoying life has proven to be effective both at home and abroad.

— Angel Miles, Penn State University

