

College of Education | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Culture and Community: Influences and impact on P-16 Australian Education
Australia Study Abroad Trip Portion – May 18 – June 4, 2017

This course will explore the differences and similarities between the education system in Australia and the US. The study tour will provide the opportunity for Illinois students to observe how Australian schools define and build community within their classrooms and schools, and how cultures and community impact students, schooling, and educational outcomes. We will visit schools in three states and one territory in Australia, as well as teacher preparation programs at major universities. Locations include Melbourne, Sydney, Alice Springs, and Cairns. **All locations in Australia are 15 hours ahead of Illinois.**

Please note: Meals as noted and excursions are included in the course fee. Some portions are still being planned with the expectation that additional meals will be included.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY - Subject to change

- Thursday, 18 May** Be at Departure Gate 2:00 p.m., O’Hare Airport Terminal 3
We depart on Qantas FL 3164 to Los Angeles at 3:30 p.m., and depart LAX at 10:15 p.m. on Qantas FL 94 for Melbourne, Australia. *Dinner in flight.*
- Friday, 19 May** We will be in flight, crossing the International Dateline. We will hopefully get some shut-eye on this long flight.
- Saturday, 20 May** Arriving in Melbourne at 7 am, we will clear customs and travel to the hotel. After freshening up and letting the folks back home know we’ve arrived, we will spend an easy day of exploring Central Melbourne on foot, visit to the Melbourne Museum, and enjoy *lunch on your own* at the Victoria Market. After resting a bit, we will have a welcome dinner together in Chinatown at the Bamboo House Chinese Restaurant. Some of us will more awake than others at this point, but the goal of today is to get oriented and start to recover from our jet lag. *Breakfast in flight, dinner included.*
- Sunday, 21 May** **Koalas and penguins, oh boy!** This will be a day long excursion to Philip Island, Mornington Peninsula. We will need to bundle up for an evening at the beach. See our tour here: <http://www.bunyiptours.com/phillip-island/penguin-tours#>
Lunch included. Breakfast may be included depending on hotel accommodations.
- Monday, 22 May** Today we will walk to the University of Melbourne campus, and meet with students and faculty in the Graduate School of Education. Our host will be Professor Fazal Rizvi, who also will meet with you during in-class time on campus in March. In the afternoon, we will visit Brunswick Secondary College (years 7-12 with 970 students) for classroom observations and student interactions. *Lunch included. We recommend and **may** provide dinner on Lygon Street.*
- Tuesday, 23 May** The Immigration Museum is our destination this morning for a teacher professional development training and exhibit on Identity: Yours, Mine, Ours exhibit. This exhibition explores how our cultural heritage, language, beliefs and family connections influence our self-perceptions and our perceptions of other people – perceptions that can lead to discovery, confusion, prejudice, and understanding. In the afternoon, we will visit Elwood Secondary College (grades 7-12 with 550 students, non-selective public co-ed school) with Professor Rizvi. We will be in the beachside neighborhood of St. Kilda so will eat there on the Beach, weather permitting. *Dinner in St. Kilda included.*

- Wednesday, 24 May** We leave the urban environs of Melbourne today to start our Outback exploration in Australia's Red Centre. We depart for Alice Springs on Qantas FL 796 at 9:25 am, arriving in Alice (as they call it) just before noon. After transporting to our hotel, we will get our bearings and have a look around to find some lunch. In the afternoon, we'll meet with Senior Lecturer Al Strangeways from the Alice Springs campus of Charles Darwin University, along with a cohort of teacher candidates for a professional experience tutorial session on 'resilient teaching.' Afterwards, we will head back to the hotel and we'll enjoy an authentic 'bush tucker' dinner. *Dinner included.*
- Thursday, 25 May** This morning we will head to the Alice Springs School of the Air! Read more about this innovative place here: <http://www.assoa.nt.edu.au/>. After a tour of the Visitor Centre, which includes a presentation and brief film, we will sit in on live lessons of the air, and talk about instructional and cultural aspects with school Principal Mel Phillips and middle grades teacher Dr. Bill Newman. In the afternoon, we will head to the Aboriginal Arts Center, and maybe try our hand at dot painting. *Breakfast, Lunch included.*
- Friday, 26 May** **Excitement!!** Today we start our overnight tour to the Red Centre. We will check out of the hotel this morning, and store our luggage, taking only a day pack with overnight essentials including warm sleeping wear, clean socks, hat, and water container. In contrast to Melbourne and Sydney, approximately 70% of the Australian continent is classed as arid or semi-arid. First stop for the day is a working outback camel farm, where you'll have the chance to lope through the outback on a 'ship of the desert' and learn how camels came to be in Australia. Then we'll go on to Kata Tjuta, a series of 36 domes (the Olgas), where we will take an afternoon hike after lunch. As evening begins, we'll tuck into a 1,000 star dinner: an outdoor candlelit feast. **Our accommodations** will be permanent, twin-share tents, with a comfy bed, proper mattress and linen, bedside table, light, power, fan and wooden floors. *Breakfast, Lunch and dinner included.*
- Saturday, 27 May** We will get a very early start today, with an early breakfast at camp and sunrise walk at Uluru. We will take a cultural interpretative Mala Walk with one of the original owners of the land and visit the Uluru Cultural Centre where we can get some lunch as well. Then we hop on the bus to Alice, pick up our luggage and head to the airport. We fly to Cairns, arriving at 8:15 p.m. We will be moving from the arid desert to the wet tropics of northern Australia. *Breakfast and lunch provided.*
- Sunday, 28 May** **Are you tired yet?** Yes? Then sleeping in and getting a late breakfast is on the agenda this morning. Some of you may wish to attend the church of your choice or explore Cairns. Either way, the choice is yours. We'll meet in the hotel lobby at 11:45 am to walk to the Marina, where we will board the high speed Skedaddle for an afternoon at Hastings Reef, snorkelling the Great Barrier Reef. We'll have afternoon tea on board, along with reef interpretation and a Guided snorkel tour. Returning late afternoon, you'll be on your own to explore the Esplanade.
- Monday, 29 May** Today we will travel to The Cairns Institute, James Cook University, Cairns campus. <http://www.cairnsinstitute.jcu.edu.au/>. We will be lead through a teacher training session on environmental sustainability. We'll enjoy dinner together tonight at the Cock and Bull. *Dinner provided. Lunch may be provided.*

- Tuesday, 30 May** We depart this morning on our last leg of the study abroad trip, leaving for Sydney at 10 am. We will take the train to the Railway Square Youth Hostel, where we will be in 4-share rooms with communal bathrooms. In the afternoon we will take a tour of Sydney, taking the train up to the Circular Quay harbour, where the Opera House is for afternoon tea, then walking back through the Rocks Historical area, then on to Darling Harbour. We'll meet at 6:30 p.m. for dinner at Eat, Pray, Pizza (or comparable). *Dinner included.*
- Wednesday, 31 May** Today we will visit the University of Sydney with Dr. Debra Talbot, Director of Professional Learning and Co-Director of Professional Experience, and with Dr. Michelle Bonati, who is a graduate of the College of Education Department of Special Education and founder of the Ben's Bells project in Champaign.
- Thursday, 1 June** Today we will train up to Macquarie High School the day. *Lunch included.*
- Friday, 2 June** Group excursion to the **Blue Mountains/Three Sisters**.
<https://www.colourfultrips.com/trip-113-Blue-Mountains-Tour>
After we return, you have the evening at your leisure. *Lunch included.*
- Saturday, 3 June** **Free day to sightsee!** Some ideas – kayak on the harbour, take the Bondi to Coogee beach walk, Or take the ferry to Manly Beach and Taronga zoo, where you can take a Cliffside walk, see Aboriginal drawings on the rocks, and maybe spot a whale or two. But whatever you do, be ready to depart the YHA to head to Darling Harbour for our Captain Cook VIVID Sydney Closing Night Dinner Cruise! We'll celebrate our time together as our study abroad trip comes to a close. After dinner, we return to pack. *Dinner provided.*
- Sunday, 4 June** We leave for the airport for the return flight home. Some of you may be diverting to other destinations, but most of the group will be on the 1 pm Qantas FL 007 from Sydney to Dallas. In Dallas, you will clear customs and go to the domestic terminal where you fly on Qantas FL 4439 (American Airlines) to Chicago O'Hare. You are scheduled to land at 6:24 pm.