Sydney School of Education Program

BU Study Abroad
CONGRATULATIONS!

You are about to embark on the adventure of a lifetime!
Agenda/Introductions

- Introductions and Program Statistics
- Academics
- SED Placement
- Life on Site
- Finances and Budgeting
- Communication
- Health and Safety
- Action Items
- Wrap up/Questions
• 76 total students
• 69 Internship
• 6 STEM
• 2 SED

• 58 BU, 18 non-BU

*subject to change (withdrawals, new admits, etc.)
There are five full-time and two part-time staff members based in Sydney who are responsible for the academic program, housing, student life, internship placement, and support.

There are also Senior Resident Assistants (4), Assistant Librarians (2), and Faculty (~19)

Program Director: Mark Connellan. He has been teaching in the Boston University Sydney program since its inception in 1992 and was appointed director in 2003.
The Pre-departure Page will be updated throughout the semester – keep checking back!

You must complete “Items Due Within Two Weeks” to be registered for the program.

BU Sydney website: [www.bu.edu/sydney](http://www.bu.edu/sydney)
Required course: 4 credits
CAS AN 368 Australian Culture & Society
(meets for first 6 weeks)
SED Framework: 8-10 credits

- Visits to schools: week of August 28th
- Practicum placement begins Sept 4
- Teaching Practicum: approx. Sept 4–Dec 6
- SED students will automatically be enrolled and do not need to register for courses.
Academics on Site

- Classes run according to a schedule provided on site
- As elaborated in the Pre-Departure Road Map, teaching and learning styles may differ dramatically
- No books required; course content is on Blackboard
- Faculty: local professors hired for BU program
LEARN THE SKILLS IT TAKES TO BE A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD!

During the course you will:
• Set personal and professional goals for your study abroad experience;
• Learn to effectively articulate the value of your semester abroad to future employers or admissions committees;
• Learn tools for identifying cultural differences, patterns and values.

Quick Facts:
• 1-credit pass/fail – 5 very brief yet meaningful assignments.
• Open to students in all fall or spring semester programs
• Delivered entirely over Facebook

Check your Hub Page or www.bu.edu/abroad/gle for the syllabus and instructions on how to enroll!
Academic Policies

• All students are subject to BU’s Academic Code of Conduct

• Must take the full course load (16 credits) for a grade

• All coursework must be completed prior to end of program (or an F may be assigned)

• If accommodations are needed, notify BU Study Abroad and BU’s Office of Disability Services

• Attendance policies
  – Personal travel must NOT conflict with academic obligations
  – Details will be given during the on-site orientation and/or in syllabi
- The placement process is a PROCESS! Flexibility & patience are key.

- Do some reflection about what you hope to gain from the experience and what you are able to give the school.

**SED Placement Process**

- ASAP: Submit all relevant forms to Sydney.
- Week of AUGUST 20, 2018:
  - INTERNSHIP BEGINS
  - Students work Monday – Friday
- APRIL:
  - Pre-placement interviews with Sydney staff.
- Potential site/Placement is finalized

**INTERNSHIP BEGINS**

Students work Monday – Friday
School Culture

- Differences between US and Australian school cultures

- Advice from returnees
School Culture

- Advice from Alums
  - Dress
  - Pack appropriately!
1. Research your host country prior to departure
2. Keep an open mind
3. Search out new experiences and friends
4. Do not judge the people of a country by one person or one experience
5. Keep a sense of humor
6. Listen and observe rather than merely see or hear
7. Reflect daily to process your experiences
8. Use your host university’s support system
9. Stay in touch with home
10. Remember you have traveled far to learn about and experience a new culture, and to represent your country and school; most people only DREAM about having this experience.

There is no "best way" to deal with culture shock; it always depends on the individual.
The Boston University Sydney Academic Centre (BUSAC) houses the program’s academic facilities, classrooms, library/computer room, and staff office.
Life on Site: Housing

- 3-4 bedroom suites
- Small private bedroom
- Shared bathroom, kitchen & living area
- Bed linens, towel and basic kitchen supplies (pots & pans) provided
- Room assignments announced upon arrival, based on housing questionnaires
- Unlimited academic wi-fi; expect it to be slower than in the US
Life on Site: Getting Around

- BUSAC is located in the neighborhood of Chippendale
- 20 minute walk to Darling Harbour, 5 minutes to downtown
- Extensive network of ferries, buses and trains
- We are very close to Central Train Station and Railway Square, two major access points for public transport
- Lots to see and do in/around Sydney – we’ll send you a weekly newsletter the SydneySider Quay.
- Many students travel further afield on weekends, long weekends & mid-semester break
Life on Site: Daily Life

- Gym memberships offered through Sydney University
- There are a number of grocery stores nearby, including a brand new Woolworth’s ("Woolies") grocery store just around the corner at Central Park Mall
- Program Assistant (PA) events, academic field trips, plus external tour offerings such as Surf Camp Australia and more!
Students have personal spending to anticipate - travel, shopping, food, etc.

Be sure to budget for local transportation

Budgeting tips from former students

Studying abroad can be as expensive/affordable as you make it!
Sample Prices (AUD)

- Taxi (5 miles): $26
- **Weekly** ticket public transit: $60
- Pair of Levi’s jeans: $98
- Nike shoes: $144
- Shampoo: $6
- Toothpaste: $3.54
- Cold medicine: $8
- Dinner for 2 in pub: $51
- Fast food combo meal: $11
- Beer: $7
- Cappuccino: $4

[https://www.expatistan.com/cost-of-living/sydney](https://www.expatistan.com/cost-of-living/sydney)
Australia is much more of a cash-based consumer culture.

- Tell your bank and credit card companies you’re going abroad!
- Check to see...
  - if your bank has an Australian partner (e.g. Westpac/BOA)
  - Anything else your bank might recommend in preparation for program
- Good to bring a backup credit card that allows you to make cash withdrawals
- You must have a 4-digit pin for your debit/credit cards
- Make copies of all cards and leave them at home
- USD $1 = AUD $1.32 (Nov 15, 2017)
- AUD $1 = USD $0.76
Plan ahead!

• Meet with your doctors to discuss continuing your care abroad, including your dentist, optometrist, and specialists. GeoBlue can help you find doctors and specialists in your host country.

• **Make a plan to access your medications abroad**
  
  • If allowable, obtain a supply for full semester
  
  • Find out whether your medication is available in your host country by contacting GeoBlue directly.
  
  • Have your current doctor write a letter listing your medications, the dosages, the generic chemical names, and what condition it’s treating. Bring this letter and copies of your prescriptions with you abroad.
  
  • Check with GeoBlue or the host country consulate for restrictions on what/how much you can bring with you
  
  • Do not plan to ship medicine abroad

• Learn about differences in medical facilities and the local health system. GeoBlue can also discuss local medical care standards with you.

• Contact our office with any concerns
Mental Health

- Talk to your therapist/counselor about mental health while abroad and make a plan before you go.
- Even if you may be excited about new opportunities, stress or anxiety may increase abroad.
- Stay Healthy:
  - Keep up routine (when possible)
  - GeoBlue covers mental health care
  - Use the on-site staff as a resource
Approximately two weeks before the program start date, all students will be enrolled in a plan from GeoBlue that provides comprehensive international health insurance coverage, as well as emergency travel assistance to cover medical and security evacuation.

- Valid for the duration of the program; extendable at the student’s expense (once BU Study Abroad has initially enrolled you in your plan)
- Detailed coverage information is provided on the BU Study Abroad Health & Safety page and again by email at the time of enrollment
- In case of need of medical treatment, mental health counseling, or emergency travel assistance while abroad, or to plan for care in advance of your departure, contact GeoBlue directly and identify yourself as a Boston University student.

All students are required to maintain their US-based health insurance coverage while abroad
• **Staying connected with home**
  - Skype/Facetime; think of alternatives too (e.g. have your parents call your mobile from Skype)
  - Email, messaging, and apps (WhatsApp)
  - Differences locally: wi-fi at residence can be spotty; less public wi-fi spots

• **Mobile Phones**
  - **US-based international mobile phone plans are more expensive and often don’t work. Skip them. You will need a local Australian number**
  - You must have a local number for internships, emergencies and ease of use (making local friends!)
  - A cheap, pay-as-you-go basic mobile phone option will be available for you to purchase at Orientation in Sydney. You will also have the option to purchase just a SIM card. Details on how to activate a phone and phone plans will also be given at Orientation.
  - If you are planning on bringing a phone, this phone must be unlocked in order to use it with an Australian service provider.
  - Keep your current smartphone on “airplane mode” and use apps on wi-fi when it’s available.
  - In Australia, it is free to accept a call on your mobile phone. We therefore recommend your parents/friends in the US Skype call your Australian mobile.
In an Emergency

If you are involved in an emergency:
1. Call local emergency services
2. Contact the program staff
3. Contact your family or emergency contact

If there is an incident while you are abroad:
1. Let the program staff know you are ok
   - Respond to any emergency messages they send
2. Contact your family or emergency contact

Unacceptable reasons for being unreachable:
1. Your phone isn’t turned on or charged.
2. You have limited minutes and want to save them.
3. You don’t want anyone to know where you are or what you’re doing.

We don’t judge! We just want to know you’re okay!
Program Emergency Plan
- Boston University closely monitors the security situation across the world, and follows guidance from local authorities and the US State Department
- Detailed emergency plans and general safety precautions will be explained during orientation

Personal Emergency Plan
- Always have emergency contact numbers with you, both in your phone and separately
- Enroll in the State Department STEP Program to get travel alerts and warnings
- Talk with your family about communication expectations so they know you are okay
Personal Safety

Our Expectations of you:
We expect that you will...

- Share responsibility for your safety and that of others in the program
- You will be reachable by local phone at all times. Keep your phone charged and topped-up with minutes.
- You will reach out to program staff and your family if you experience, witness or become aware of a serious incident of any kind.
- You will report issues of any sort in a timely manner to the on-site staff (or directly to Boston if necessary) so that we can help you.
Personal Safety

Take Responsibility for your OWN Risk Management!

• Talk to your family and friends about the location-buildings, housing, staff, insurance, resources
• Practice situational awareness: Be aware of your surroundings; be vigilant of others.
• Do not drive (road and pedestrian accidents are #1 cause of injury/death abroad)
• Do not participate in demonstrations or protests
• Drink responsibly –The majority of problems student’s face are related to alcohol. It’s not the staff’s responsibility to manage your consumption!
• Travel with others and look out for each other.
• Pay attention to the news (before and during the program)
• Practice safe sex and report any sexual assault to staff abroad.
Personal Safety

Keep your belongings safe

- Do not bring valuables or sentimental items abroad
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash
- Monitor your wallet/purse closely. Keep money hidden, or consider a money belt
- Limit smartphone usage in public
- Carry only necessities out at night – make sure you have emergency numbers with you
• Applications are due **MAY 1**
  • Online application
  • Supplemental Materials
    • Look out for what needs to be notarized!
    • Your 956a must be sent to **walshje@bu.edu** ASAP
  • Online Visa tutorial was sent via email
• Look out for supplemental materials from Jessica & signed 956a
• Visas granted electronically via email; no sticker in passport
• Fee payment:
  • Notify your bank/credit card provider of charge in Australian dollars
  • Will occur around May/June

***Process may vary for non-US citizens***
Flights

- Information on a recommended group flight will be sent by email
- Cost of recommended flight is included in program fee
- Those on group flight (or around the same time) will be picked up at the airport by Sydney staff
- Independent arrivals will receive instructions from Sydney staff
- Independent travelers must arrive by 10am on August 20 and must e-mail their confirmed itineraries to busydney@bu.edu
  - Residence opens on AUG 20 and closes on DEC 10

***You are not automatically booked on a flight

Advantage Travel:
Web: http://advantagetravelcny.com/
Phone: 315-471-2222
Toll Free: 800-788-1980
LOGISTICS
• Arrive at the airport no later than two hours prior to your departure
• Wear heavier clothes/layers on the flight to be able to have room in your suitcase
• Confirm your departure time and flight

CARRY ON
• Passport with printed visa confirmation e-mail
• Liquids 3oz or less in plastic bags (check www.tsa.gov for up to date requirements)
• Essentials to last you a few days in your carry-on in case your luggage gets lost (toothpaste, deodorant, underwear, medicine, socks)
• Full roundtrip flight itinerary
• Site contact details and address of your program site

HEALTH WHILE TRAVELING
• Drink lots of water and stay hydrated; get up and move around cabin
• Be sure to time your medications while traveling
• Get lots of sleep after you arrive: jetlag can take up to a week to go away!
• **Luggage:**
  – Use bags that are light and sturdy – one large, one carry on, one shoulder bag or backpack
  – Pack only what you can carry *yourself*
  – Check airline restrictions on weight and number of bags you can take aboard, overage fees may apply
  – Do not plan on shipping items abroad
Packing List

• **Things to bring:**
  - You are provided with 1 towel, 1 pillow and bed linens. Bring any extra items you need (e.g. beach towel, extra pillow, etc.)
  - Outlet adapter
  - Specific clothing for the site climate & internship
  - External hard drive or USB drive for backing up academic work

• **What NOT to bring:**
  - Sentimental items you couldn’t do without
  - Personal appliances (hairdryers, straighteners, shavers); you can get one there

Check out these helpful pages of the bu.edu/sydney website:
  - What to Bring
  - Adaptors & Converters
Action Items

- Urgent: complete outstanding Sydney/visa forms!
  - Send criminal background check results to busydney@bu.edu
  - Send signed 956a form to Jessica: walshje@bu.edu
  - SUBMIT VISA

- Complete general pre-departure documents to get registered for your program

- Watch the online Pre-Departure Road Map (again!)
Some communication you can expect to receive over the next few months:

- From Boston staff:
  - General reminders
  - Getting Ready to Go e-mail (important reminders sent a few weeks before departure)
  - GeoBlue e-mail
  - Financial information

- From Sydney staff:
  - Pre-departure e-mails

Join BUSA on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!
Join the **BU Sydney Fall 2018 Facebook Group**

Like the **BU Sydney Facebook Page**
See you in Sydney!

BU in Sydney Slideshow
Boston University is committed to fostering a safe learning environment for all members of the University community and preventing sexual misconduct.

- **All forms of sexual misconduct, including rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, stalking, and sexual harassment are violations of Boston University’s policies, whether they happen on campus or off campus.**

- Reporting: On-site staff should be first resource. If unavailable or uncomfortable reporting, contact Title IX Deputy Coordinator Debbie Miller at millerda@bu.edu.

- BU staff/site staff are obligated to report any incident of sexual misconduct

- On-site staff will go over this in orientation
• BU provides a variety of educational programs designed to promote awareness and prevention of sexual assault and domestic violence.

**Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) training**

The Boston University Police Department offers RAD training several times during the year, and can schedule additional sessions on request.

**Sexual Assault Response & Prevention Center**

In cooperation with BU’s [Student Health Services](http://www.bu.edu/shs/wellness/), SARP provides a variety of services, including:

- Step Up. Step In. (bystander training)
- health services
- mental health counseling
- violence prevention workshops during the academic year and upon request

**Be Safe@BU**

The Dean of Students provides programming at student orientation and beyond to educate the BU community on a variety of safety measures, including assault prevention.

[Wellness & Prevention Services](http://www.bu.edu/shs/wellness/)

Non-BU students, please also research your university’s services
LGBTQ Resources
• US State Department Advice for LGBT Travelers
• Diversity and Inclusion Abroad: Sexual Orientation Abroad

Disability resources
• Diversity and Inclusion Abroad: Student with Disabilities Abroad
• Abroad with Disabilities Facebook Community

Women’s issues by site
• US State Department Advice for Women Travelers
• Diversity and Inclusion Abroad: Women Abroad
• BU: http://www.bu.edu/shs/resources/

Many additional resources can be found online