

## **US program offers the chance of a lifetime**

Outstanding students can have the chance of a lifetime to connect with key US policymakers, delve into the political fray over global foreign policy issues, and engage with the public policy environment in Washington DC through a program now taking applications.

The 2013-14 American Australian Association-Australian National University Congressional Research Fellowship Program (CRFP), which places high-achieving honours and postgraduate students from Australia's Group of Eight (Go8) universities in the offices of US Senators who serve on the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. CRFP Fellows will also be associated with relevant and established think tanks.

Crawford School's Professor Peter Drysdale, who helped get the fellowship established, said the program represents a long-term investment in the relationship between the United States and Australia.

"The knowledge and associations built in Washington contribute through the careers of its alumni to the ongoing strength of ties between the two countries," he said.

Former student Beth Shaw, who was placed with US Senator Richard Lugar from Indiana as part of the 2011-12 program, said, "The [program] not only provides an opportunity to learn about US politics and the functions of a political office, it also provides the opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the public policy environment in Washington, DC, with its innumerable think-tanks, interest groups and world-class universities."

The fellowships run for three months beginning in January 2014. The American Australian Association (AAA) and The Australian National University (ANU) will cover the cost of a return trip airfare from Australia to Washington DC, accommodation in Washington DC, and US J-1 visa application costs.

Crawford School student Josh Machin completed his fellowship with US Senator Robert Casey from Pennsylvania as part of the 2012-13 program.

"As well as expanding my learning on international issues, the program gave me a valuable experience in learning how the US political system works," he said.

"The Obama Administration was settling into a new term and critical issues such as gun control, fiscal priorities and immigration reform were hot topics during that time: all matters where the US perspective and approach differs from that taken by Australia."

Jonathan Cheng, who was placed with the same Senator in 2011-12, said that the program is worthwhile for those wanting to get a better understanding of how policy is developed or politics is practiced in Washington DC.

"Washington is never short of interesting events and seminars for a political junkie or international affairs specialist to attend. People you meet on the street or in cafes are often involved in the DC political scene either on the Hill or with think-tanks," he said.

**Applications for this highly-competitive program close at 5pm on Friday 23 August.** The *CRFP Application Form*, along with a *CRFP Information for Applicants* document, can be found on the Program website at [https://crawford.anu.edu.au/current\\_students/content/npip/crfp/](https://crawford.anu.edu.au/current_students/content/npip/crfp/).



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# THE AMERICAN AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION-AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (CRFP)

## About the Program

**Applications are now open for students of the Australian Group of Eight (Go8) Universities** for The American Australian Association-Australian National University Congressional Research Fellowship Program (CRFP). The CRFP places outstanding Australian Go8 honours and postgraduate students in the offices of United States Senators who serve on the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. The CRFP aims to identify and foster the development of a new generation of leaders, whilst promoting investment in the Australia-US relationship through person-to-person linkages made by successive fellows and the networks they create.

For a period of up to three months, from January to April 2014, CRFP fellows will assist a Senator's senior staff in developing policy advice and assisting with the day-to-day functioning of the office. Fellows will have the opportunity to attend foreign relations committee hearings and policy briefings held for staff in the US Capitol. Fellows will also be associated with leading foreign policy, security or economics think-tanks in Washington DC.

The CRFP seeks to be a holistic experience. Fellows are expected to get involved in all that Washington DC has to offer. They are automatically included in the ANU Washington alumni community, which includes graduates working in Congress, Federal Agencies, international organisations, diplomacy, think tanks, academia and non-profits.

## Program Objectives

The CRFP Program enables Australian students to:

1. Gain an insight into the inner workings of the US political system, including how policy is shaped by the political process, citizen-democracy, interest groups and the media;
2. Appreciate the global nature of US interests by understanding policy-making from the US perspective;
3. Engage with the broader public-policy environment in Washington DC, by attending seminars and events at think tanks and universities;
4. Build networks amongst American colleagues to contribute to an enduring relationship between Australia and America; and
5. Share lessons and insights from the Australian policy perspective.

## Logistics

The ANU and AAA will cover the cost of a return trip airfare from Australia to Washington DC, accommodation in Washington DC, and US J-1 visa application costs.

## Applying

To participate in the CRFP, an applicant must be a current Australian honours or postgraduate student at a Go8 University, or be enrolled by Semester 1, 2014. Successful applicants will be enrolled in an ANU six-unit postgraduate academic course in Semester 1, 2014.

Application Forms can be found on the Program Website: [http://crawford.anu.edu.au/current\\_students/content/npip/crfp](http://crawford.anu.edu.au/current_students/content/npip/crfp)

**Applications will close on Friday 23 August 2013.**

## Contact

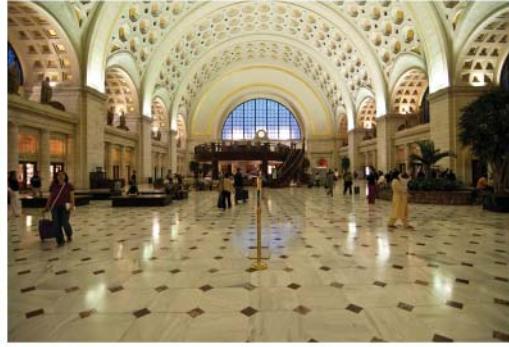
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## 2013/2014 AAA-ANU CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

### Information for Applicants

The American Australian Association (AAA) and The Australian National University (ANU) are offering an exciting opportunity for up to three outstanding students from Australia's Group of Eight (Go8) universities to be placed in an office of a United States Senator who serves on the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. The CRFP aims to identify and foster the development of a new generation of leaders, whilst promoting investment in the Australia-US relationship through person-to-person linkages made by successive fellows and the networks they create.

For a period of up to three months, between January and April 2014, CRFP fellows will assist a Senator's senior staff in developing policy advice and assisting with the day-to-day functioning of the office. Fellows will have the opportunity to attend foreign relations committee hearings and policy briefings held for staff in the US Capitol. Fellows will also be associated with leading foreign policy, security or economics think-tanks in Washington DC.

The CRFP seeks to be a holistic experience. Fellows are expected to get involved in all that Washington DC has to offer. They are automatically included in the ANU Washington alumni community, which includes graduates working in Congress, Federal Agencies, international organisations, diplomacy, think tanks, academia and non-profits.

### Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for the program, you must:

- Be an Australian
- Be a currently enrolled honours or postgraduate student at a Go8 University, or be enrolled by Semester 1, 2014.

Applicants must:

- Have a strong interest in international relations, particularly Asia-Pacific political, security or economic affairs;
- Have or had at least a Distinction average in their undergraduate and/or current studies;
- Be able to meet criteria for a US (J-1 Summer Work Travel Program) visa (refer to website [http://canberra.usembassy.gov/exch\\_visitor\\_visa.html](http://canberra.usembassy.gov/exch_visitor_visa.html) for more information);
- Hold a Australian passport that has at least six months validity; and
- Be fluent in English.

## How does the Selection Process work?

Selection is highly competitive. Candidates are required to submit an application form along with their resume, a short piece of policy-focused writing, their university academic transcripts, and details for two academic referees.

Selection will be based upon the following criteria:

- Academic history and performance;
- Personal motivation;
- Involvement in university and community activities;
- Relevance and importance of proposed research topic; and
- Background in international relations.

CRFP Applications will be considered by the ANU and the AAA. CRFP fellows serve as ambassadors for Australia, the Go8, and their respective universities while in the United States. If your application is shortlisted, you will be invited to an interview. Successful applicants will be notified on Friday 20 September 2013.

## Requirements

Successful CRFP applicants will be enrolled in an ANU six-unit postgraduate academic course in Semester 1, 2014. Under this course, they will be required to:

- Attend pre-departure briefings and a reception in Canberra;
- Participate in regular meetings with the ANU program supervisor in Washington DC;
- Attend particular Australian Embassy functions;
- Write an online article about their research topic;
- Submit a formal report on their experience to the ANU and the American Australian Association within one month of returning to Australia; and
- Submit a 4,000 word research paper on an agreed upon research topic by the conclusion of Semester 1, 2014.

Indicative Assessment:

- Major Paper 60 per cent
- Formal Report 15 per cent
- Feedback from Senate and Think Tank 10 per cent
- Feedback from NALO 5 per cent
- Online Article 10 per cent

## Funding Available

The ANU and AAA will cover the cost of a return trip airfare from Australia to Washington DC, accommodation in Washington DC, and US J-1 visa application costs. All other costs will be covered by the student.

## How do I apply?

Applications are to be submitted electronically as a single Adobe Acrobat PDF file (including the Application Form and requested attachments) in an e-mail addressed to Mr Jonathan Cheng.

All applications must be received before 5 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time, Friday 23 August 2013.

## Queries and Submissions

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