



Student Placement: community engagement

Expression of Interest: Placement Opportunity

Sydney Policy Lab

Date Range

The placement is for a total of 20 days work (140 hours), to be commenced by mutual agreement. The Lab is open to part-time and full-time arrangements, and accepts applications on a rolling basis.

Potential Placement Structure

Part-time or full-time as per mutual agreement. Students must be currently enrolled in a university course at any level and at any tertiary institution, and their placement must be supported by a for credit internship scheme in their home institution.

Project location is in the Sydney Policy Lab office at the Camperdown campus, and all interns will be given a workspace in our office.

Host Organisation

The Sydney Policy Lab was established in late 2017 as one of the University's ten multidisciplinary institutes.

The Lab exists to help forge collaborative relationships between researchers, community groups, campaigners, politicians and policymakers that are capable of driving change to shape an Australia which is more equal, where power is in the hands of ordinary people and not elites, and where more people feel a secure sense of belonging in their own society.

Working alongside the Lab's team, interns take responsibility for a range of day-to-day tasks and big picture work, joining the Lab's leadership meetings, visits to partner organisations, training workshops, and public engagement programs. In addition, each intern at the Policy Lab takes on a research project designed to support the Lab's academic direction and tailored to the student's area of interest.

Please visit our website to learn more.

Student Placement Project Scope

Community Engagement Placement

The Sydney Policy Lab is seeking a Community Engagement Intern who is driven to build change through collaboration and passionate about tackling local, Australia-wide and global challenges in the domains of equality, belonging and power.

Alongside the Lab's team, the Community Engagement Intern will be responsible for identifying, nurturing and managing many and diverse partnerships across the policy community broadly conceived – from policy-makers and advocates, to business leaders and campaigners. You will be tasked with a range of relationship and project management responsibilities, including event planning, briefing notes and outreach.

In addition, the Community Engagement Intern takes on a research project for the duration of the internship, shaped with the Lab's team. Broadly, the project will scope, dig into and bring together the theory and current practices of co-creation. You'll assess comparator global organisations approaching change through co-creation, open innovation, experimentation, citizen participation, and other similar methods.

The concept of co-creation is, in short, involving citizens in creating their own solutions. The Lab's approach to change falls under this collaborative banner, based in the assumption that "relationship must precede action" and that everyone, especially those most affected by a policy area, deserves a voice in shaping policy. The recent economic crisis has invigorated the global debate on co-creation by forcing reevaluations of new forms of collaboration between a wide range of communities and private and public bodies. The Community Engagement Intern has the opportunity to seize on this moment to help the Lab understand and find its place in this global picture.

Application Deadline: Accepted on a rolling basis. Please submit at least one month in advance of your proposed start date and confirm availability for an interview in Sydney.

Application Documents

- Cover Letter of no more than one page. Please indicate availability in cover letter, as well as information on the internship scheme that will support your time at the Sydney Policy Lab.
- Resume of no more than two pages.
- Writing sample of no more than five pages.
- Academic transcripts

Selection Criteria

- Qualifications must include at least an undergraduate degree in any field (or be currently enrolled in an undergraduate degree if undergraduate);
- Demonstrated interest in furthering unlikely collaborations that cut across societal and disciplinary silos to collectively solve the systemic challenges we face in for the 21st century;
- Knowledge of building and maintaining effective, collaborative partnerships with a range of groups, from civil society and policymakers, to industry and academics;
- Self-starter and highly organised team player; willingness to roll up one's sleeves to get the job done;
- Familiarity with how the cogs turn at Universities; ability to work well at all levels within and beyond the University of Sydney institutional structure;
- Natural and efficient written and in person communicator, able to distill complex ideas in engaging, inclusive and fun ways;
- Dexterity working with a wide variety of online platforms and databases: social media savvy and proficiency in Office 365 suite are musts; familiarity with Adobe Suite and CRMs is a plus

For further information about this opportunity, please contact isabelle.napier@sydney.edu.au