

Aurora Indigenous Scholars Study Tour Symposium 2021



There is something to be said for listening to other students' experiences. At the end of the day there is only so much you can learn from a university website. The Aurora online Study Tour Symposium gave us all the chance to speak directly with people who have been in our shoes and know the ins and outs. This is so valuable. It is difficult to imagine yourself one day studying somewhere like Cambridge or Harvard until you meet the people who are just like you who have gone through the experience and thrived.

Mara Willingham
Worimi woman

In light of the current COVID restrictions in NSW, the 2021 Study Tour Symposium has been postponed to late March 2022. We are now accepting a second round of applications for the 2021 Study Tour Symposium from 27 September 2021. Applications for this round close on 26 November 2021.

The Symposium will facilitate meetings with US and UK universities including Berkeley, Harvard, Stanford, University of London, Oxford and Cambridge. There is also the opportunity to arrange academic meetings at these institutions in your specific area of study. Participating will provide the opportunity to grow your network by engaging with Charlie Perkins, Roberta Sykes alumni and Indigenous scholars currently studying overseas. Alumni and scholars will share their learning journey, study experience and provide helpful tips. We will provide information about scholarship opportunities available in Australia to study overseas and host panel discussions. With Indigenous mentors to provide guidance and support, the Symposium will enable you to make informed decisions on pathways for postgraduate opportunities.

Ten years on the Aurora Study Tour has:

- provided opportunities for over 150 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to gain insight into the experience of undertaking postgraduate study at premier overseas institutions.
- seen 62 participants apply to study at the universities visited, with 94% being accepted.

Dates for the Sydney Study Tour Symposium are to be confirmed but will most likely be in the last 2 weeks of March 2022 in Sydney. Successful applicants will have their travel, accommodation and meals covered to participate at the Symposium. When the Study Tour is able to next visit the UK and US, successful applicants for this round will be invited to participate.

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The Study Tour Symposium was a truly incredible week where I was lucky enough to meet both other inspiring students, supportive staff and knowledgeable people. This week has opened my eyes to the endless possibilities of studying abroad, and the fact that not only is it possible for a driven Indigenous student like myself to achieve, but it is very attainable. I am so grateful for the incredible people I have had the pleasure of meeting and connecting with during the tour, and I know that these connections will last a lifetime.

Before the Study Tour Symposium, I never would have thought that studying abroad at the best universities in the world would have ever been possible. But meeting, learning from and talking with such incredible people during this week has made me realise that this is a possibility. Hearing first-hand the experiences of students and staff put into perspective that my goals are in fact a possibility; it was an amazing experience, and really made me feel I was the closest I could be to these universities without being there in person. I feel so inspired by the people around me, and I am even more driven to follow my passion and achieve my goals.

Bianca Crisp
Wiradjuri woman

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply, applicants must:

- Identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Have graduated from a first degree, or have completed at least 2 years of an undergraduate degree
- Have a Distinction average or on a pathway to an Honours degree
- Have a strong interest in postgraduate study overseas
- Be willing to act as an ambassador of the program while overseas

Selection Process

Successful applicants will be chosen primarily on the basis of academic achievement (Distinction average or higher, or First Class or upper Second Class Honours) and leaders in their field of study and in communities.

Students currently undertaking a PhD in Australia who hope to complete some of their program or a postdoc overseas, will also be considered; however, priority will be given to those seeking to complete a full degree overseas.

Please note, if you are successful at your interview, your participation will be conditional on Aurora sourcing the required funding.

Applications for the Study Tour are made through the [Aurora Indigenous Pathways Portal](#)

For more information about the Sydney Symposium, please email Sharon Kumar and Tyrrel Freeman-Mafi on scholarships@aurorafoundation.com.au

