



**SPECIAL SYDNEY NEWSLETTER FOR
VOLUNTEER PLACEMENTS
March 21, 2012**

Dear Interns:

I am writing to give you an update on the status of the internships (volunteer placements) and to give you information I have obtained about visas.

We have a number of terrific placements for your internship work following the Refugee Law course. Most of these are with refugee or immigration non-profits. I am in the process of going through your materials and seeing what the best fit would be, and I may call you in the next week to talk with you about the placement. Once we've made a tentative assignment, we must send the materials to the placement for their review and approval. I should have the final confirmation within the month, and then I will send you the contact information for your placement, so that you can contact your supervisor.

In the meantime, remember that the internships begin on Monday, June 25, and continue until Friday, July 27, 2012. I have attached our internship guidelines, containing important information.

With regard to visas, here is the information I have learned. Please remember that I am not an Australian lawyer or registered migration agent, however, and neither Santa Clara Law School nor I can give you an opinion on this matter. Instead, I am relaying to you what a supervisor at the Australian Visa Information Service told me. This information applies only to U.S. citizens traveling on U.S. passports. If you are not a U.S. citizen, you will need to ask what the visa requirements are for you.

The supervisor informed me that, based on my description of what you will be doing in Australia, a tourist visa is appropriate, and you may use the Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) form of the tourist visa. The ETA is "non-assessed," meaning that you assert in your application that you are eligible for the tourist visa, but no one actually assesses your eligibility for it when it is granted. It is possible that you might get some

questions when you come through Australian immigration, although this has not been out students' experience in earlier years.

Our students have routinely used the ETA tourist visa, because a major goal of our summer programs abroad is immersion and tourism. The reason we hold law programs overseas is to give our students an opportunity to understand how other countries develop their law and legal systems according to their historical, cultural, religious, and economic experiences. Additionally, you are not enrolled in an Australian educational institution, but are instead enrolled in a U.S. institution.

In the unlikely event that you receive questions about your eligibility for the tourist visa upon arrival in Australia, I thought it might be helpful to know what the Australian Visa Information Service told me about why the tourist visa is appropriate. The Information Service's first response, when I explained that you would be doing volunteer work in legal offices, was that this is regarded as work, even though unpaid, and you would need a special visa for it, such as a working holiday visa or an occupational training visa. When I explained further, however, the Information Service supervisor concluded that the sort of activity you will be doing (observing professionals at work, doing research and writing up the research, and possibly some interaction with clients) would fit within a special policy for using tourist visas. Under that policy, she told me, a tourist visa is appropriate for individuals doing volunteer work if the individual is a student at a foreign university and is receiving academic credit from his or her institution for the volunteer placement, the activity is in line with the individual's course of study, and occupational training is not available.

If you use the ETA, it is a good idea to take some documentation with you when you arrive in Australia, in case you are asked to demonstrate certain aspects of eligibility for the tourist visa. These are your ability to support yourself without working while in Australia, your possession of medical insurance, and your receipt of academic credit for the program. Thus, in addition to your passport and your receipt for the ETA, you should take a copy of your bank statement and the program letter that Monica Davis will provide you, confirming your health insurance coverage and your receipt of academic credit.

I hope that this information is helpful. Please let me know if I may provide you with any further information until my next communication. (eabriel@scu.edu, 408-554-5368)

I am looking forward to our exciting trip to Australia!

Vangie Abriel

