Australia & New Zealand Immersion

Summary of Australia-New Zealand Itinerary
The purpose of this course is to provide the students with an international business immersion tour, including the cultural, political, economic and healthcare systems for the countries of Australia and New Zealand. The course will include three pre-travel class meetings, preliminary readings about the two countries, travel to Wellington, New Zealand and Sydney, Australia, and two post-travel class meetings.

In the New Zealand national capital city of Wellington, the students will participate in a guided tour of the Parliament and two-way interactive meetings with professionals from the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, the Ministry of Health, Victoria University of Wellington, and the U.S. Embassy. They will also visit the Te Papa Tongarewa national cultural museum, the Maori tribal center to gain an understanding of cultural and health issues, and participation in national governance, and experience a guided tour of the multi Oscar Award-winning Weta Workshop design-studio and manufacturing facility that serves the world’s entertainment and creative industries. The students will travel to the summit of Mt. Victoria, observing magnificent views of some of actual landscapes and settings used to film the Hobbit and Lord of the Rings movies. In addition, they will experience the many local shops, restaurants and attractions on The Terrace and Cuba Street—which is the cultural center of the city.

In Sydney, Australia, the students will participate in two-way interactive sessions with the Reserve Bank of Australia, the Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand, an international venture capital company specializing in the oil & gas industry, and University of New South Wales faculty and students. They also will meet in the Executive Board Room with C-Suite leaders of the famous Sydney Opera House, participate in an exclusive, private backstage guided tour of the Opera House, and enjoy a world-class stage performance. The students will meet with executives of the Aboriginal Legal Services to gain an understanding of Aboriginal cultural issues, and how the Service contributes to advancing society. They will also visit the SeaLife and Wildlife World exhibits, the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area for close encounters with kangaroos and koalas, as well experience the spectacular cliffs over Watson’s Bay in an unforgettable afternoon of whale-watching. There will also be abundant opportunities for cultural enrichment as we explore Darling Harbour and The Rocks cultural districts, and visit the many national museums, unique local shops, and culinary establishments.

Trip elements
• Faculty leader: Dr. Dana A. Forgione
• Immersion in last two weeks of June [POSSIBLY MIDDLE 2 WEEKS OF JULY]
• Cities visited: Wellington, NZ and Sydney, AU, with day-trip to Porirua, NZ
• 18 students to be accepted
• Students will stay in excellent hotels, 2 students per room
• All the meals will be at local restaurants; all dietary needs accommodated
• Most in-country travel is within walking distance; some will be by chartered bus
**Academic & Professional Lectures:** government structure and process, international diplomatic relationships, maintaining fiscal stability and inflation targeting, how & why AU & NZ are the most fiscally responsible and have the lowest corruption of all developed countries, how AU avoided the global economic crisis, national health systems design and operation, comparative U.S. and AU/NZ business and financing approaches, the role of public accounting and auditing in AU and NZ, financing large-scale international oil & gas ventures, operating world-class entertainment venues, Maori tribal and Aboriginal cultural issues, what the support services do and how they help to improve society.

**Industry/Business exposure:** Government, financial institutions, accounting & auditing, healthcare, oil & gas, entertainment. 

**Cultural exposure:** Te Papa Tongarewa museum, Mt. Victoria, The Terrace, Cuba Street, SeaLife & Wildlife World, Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, Watson’s Bay, Sydney Opera House stage performance, Darling Harbour, and The Rocks.