



Erin Miller, an ODU graduate student in the Higher Education Administration Program, traveled to Melbourne, Australia in the summer of 2009 for an internship with Deakin University. During her 2 month period in Australia, Erin worked 30-40 hours a week in the Student Mobility Office (which is equivalent to ODU's Study

Abroad office) creating a global certificate program for Australian students who had studied abroad and completed other intercultural activities.

Erin obtained her internship through her graduate assistantship in ODU's Office of Study Abroad. Deacon University is a partner institution with ODU and her supervisor referred her to the contact person. While in Australia, Erin lived in an apartment, which she found on her own after receiving suggestions from her internship supervisor beforehand. The rent was about \$500 a month and she was responsible for all of her meals. She funded this international experience with a study abroad scholarship and student loans.



Erin started the planning process for her international internship experience about 6 months in advance of her start date. She wishes she would have known the Australian university schedule (as far as when the breaks occurred and when classes were held) because the class schedule



hindered some of the goals which she wanted to accomplish. The most rewarding part of her experience was being able to assimilate fairly quickly to the culture and seeing the results of her hard work. The most challenging part for her was traveling alone to a completely different part of the world, so far from home. If she could do it again, Erin said that she would make sure to take more time to see more parts and sights of the country and go during a different time of year. Erin's advice to any student interested in an international internship is DO IT!- Because an international experience is

rewarding and sets you apart from other candidates in the job market.