

**VME 198 Australia: Wildlife, Conservation, and Veterinary
Medicine Internship Reflection**

Summer Internship in Australia

Course Syllabus

July 12 to August 13, 2020
University of California, Davis

Instructor: Professor Lisa Tell, School of Veterinary Medicine

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Course Overview:

Veterinary Medicine and Epidemiology (VME) 198: *Wildlife, Conservation, and Veterinary Medicine Internship Reflection (2 Units)*

As a student in VME 198, you will spend time each week reflecting on your work as an intern in Australia and sharing your experiences. Through this internship, you will learn, and apply real-world animal related skills on an international level, and throughout the process, you will complete several required assignments to fulfil the course requirement. The vast majority of the work and value of this course, however, will come in the form of the international, intercultural, interpersonal, and unique animal experiences you have throughout your time in Australia.

NOTE: You will take VME 198 in conjunction with **Education Abroad (EAP) 192 Internship**. EAP 192 is a 4-unit course for which you will intern approximately 35-40 hours per week at your host company in Australia. You will be able to apply for transcript notation through the UC Davis Internship and Career Center for the EAP 192 course.

This syllabus outlines the expectations for VME 198 and provides the information that is necessary to successfully complete this 2-unit course.

Course Goals

The main goals of the internship course (EAP 192) are to gain hands-on international experience in veterinary and elephant management related activities, and to acquire intercultural skills that will allow you to navigate an increasingly interconnected world. To complement these goals, the main goals of this 2-unit course (VME 198) are:

- To encourage you to reflect on your internship experiences through remote instruction while on location.
- To share your internship experiences with other registered students in the EAP 192 course.
- To encourage you to reflect on how your internship experiences impact your desire to pursue a career in animal or veterinary related fields.

Throughout your time abroad, you will work with your instructor via online interactions to achieve these goals and to make your international experiences as valuable as possible.

Course Credit & Grading

VME 198 will be taken for a Pass/No Pass grade. To pass this course, you must **complete the discussion post assignment (Week 1) and all of the writing assignments (Weeks 2-4)** and post them on Canvas by the due date. The course progression table indicates due dates and further details for these assignments. Assignments will be uploaded through the Canvas portal. Most of the written assignments should be a minimum of 300 words (about one-page).

Internet access and services should be very good in Australia. It is your responsibility to complete the assignments and discussion posts on time and meet deadlines. Please make sure you go to the course canvas page and download all of the reading materials, writing assignments and assigned topics for discussion postings before you leave for Australia in order to ensure that you will have all of the assigned materials.

Grading: To earn a **passing grade** for VME 198 the following will be required:

1. You must **complete the discussion post assignment for Week 1.**
2. You must **complete all of the writing assignments (Weeks 2-4).**

Required Course Readings

The readings for this course are all available online and are listed in the Course Progression below under the *Reading Assignments* section. These readings come from a variety of sources and focus on topics ranging from intercultural communication to tips for succeeding in an internship. Please ensure that you download all of the reading materials (available on Canvas under files; PDFs) and assignments before you depart for Australia. These readings will provide practical insight that may prove useful in your summertime workplace.

Course Progression

The course progression on the following pages lists all reading and writing assignments for this course. Note that all assignments are due each week by Sunday at 10:00 pm *in Australia*.

If you have any questions or concerns about the information listed in this course progression, please do not hesitate to email me: latell@ucdavis.edu.

Week/ Dates	Reading Assignments	Discussion Posts & Assignments
Week 1	<p>Pre-Veterinary Experience: How much is enough?</p> <p>Please Read:</p> <p>1. <i>How much pre-veterinary experience is enough?</i> https://news.vin.com/vinnews.aspx?articleId=45798</p> <p>Tips for a successful internship</p>	<p>Week 1: Discussion Posts by 10:00 p.m. (Australia time) on Sunday, Week 1 (July 19th, 2020)</p> <p>1. Discussion Post 1: A very concise recap of your first week in the internship (50-word minimum)</p> <p>2. Discussion Post 2: A brief description of your most interesting/unusual interaction of the week (25-word minimum)</p>

Week/ Dates	Reading Assignments	Discussion Posts & Assignments
	<p>Please Read:</p> <p>2. <i>Unconventional tips for pre-veterinary students</i> http://www.drothmandvm.com/pre-vets/ten-unconventional-tips-for-pre-vet-students</p> <p>3. <i>Tips for Internship Success</i> https://career.berkeley.edu/Internships/IntTips</p> <p>4. <i>Top 10 Tips to Surviving an Internship Abroad</i> http://www.vergemagazine.com/work-abroad/blogs/782-top-10-tips-to-surviving-an-internship-abroad.html</p>	
Week 2	<p>Please read:</p> <p>Bats:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.animalsaustralia.org/features/why-bats-need-your-love.php https://wildcare.org.au/species-information/bats/ http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/10/Australian-Bat- https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/forms-and-resources/films/safe-bat-handling <p>Birds</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the Merlin App (they have a download for Southeast Australia) for bird identification https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/#_ga=2.161368958.296883771.1568758809-719766617.1568758809 Avian Wildlife Rehabilitation in Australia 	<p>Week 2: Reflection Writing Assignment due by 10:00 p.m. (Australia time) on Sunday, Week 2 (July 26th, 2020)</p> <p><i>Animal related work and how it relates to my desire to be a veterinarian or in an animal science related field. 300 word minimum</i></p>

Week/ Dates	Reading Assignments	Discussion Posts & Assignments
	<p>https://wildcare.org.au/species-information/birds/</p> <p>Reptiles and Echidnas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. https://wildcare.org.au/species-information/reptiles/ 2. https://wildcare.org.au/species-information/echidnas/ 	
Week 3	<p>Interpersonal Skills</p> <p>Please Read:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Essential skills and abilities for veterinarians:</i> https://www.vet.cornell.edu/education/doctor-veterinary-medicine/curriculum/essential-skills-and-abilities 2. <i>The importance of interpersonal skills:</i> https://www.scilvet.ca/company/articles/the-importance-of-interpersonal-skills/ 3. <i>Intercultural Communication in the Global Workplace:</i> http://www.e-revistas.uji.es/index.php/clar/article/viewFile/1342/1185 4. <i>Communicating Across Cultures:</i> https://www.asme.org/engineering-topics/articles/business-communication/communicating-across-cultures 	<p>Week 3: Reflection Writing Assignment due by 10:00 p.m. (Australia time) on Sunday, Week 3 (August 2, 2020)</p> <p><i>Interpersonal Communication in Animal Science or Veterinary Related Careers. 300 word minimum</i></p>

Week/ Dates	Reading Assignments	Discussion Posts & Assignments
Week 4	<p>Please read:</p> <p>Possums/Gliders, Koalas and Macropods</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. https://wildcare.org.au/species-information/possums-gliders/ 2. https://wildcare.org.au/species-information/macropods/ 3. https://wildcare.org.au/species-information/koalas/ 4. https://australianmuseum.net.au/get-involved/amri/the-koala-genome/ <p>Global Exposure: Changes in Perspectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Innocents Abroad: How Travel Changed my Perspective and Politics</i> <p>https://www.ricksteves.com/about-rick/innocents-abroad-how-travel-changed-my-perspective-and-politics</p>	<p>Week 4: Reflection Writing Assignment due by 10:00 p.m. (Australia time) on Sunday, Week 4 (August 9, 2020)</p> <p><i>Summary of your internship including new animal related experience you have gained. Optional: Include the most notable impact that your travel to Australia has had on you either personally or from a future career perspective.</i></p>

Acknowledgement: This syllabus structure was based on a syllabus and material developed by Dr. Ken Andersen from the University Writing Program for a similar internship abroad course.