Sample Itinerary for

AUIP New Zealand & Australia Sustainable Business Program

Please note: This itinerary is a sample of potential program activities, based on previous years' programs. Deviations from this plan may be expected.

Day 1: Depart U.S. for New Zealand

Day 2: En route to New Zealand
(lose a day crossing the International Dateline)

Day 3: Queenstown
Fly into Queenstown, "the adventure capital of the world," to begin your Kiwi educational adventure. We'll take a quick look around the town, and then settle into our hostel for orientation. We round off the day with a delicious Welcome Dinner before your first night's sleep under the stars of the Southern Cross.

Day 4: Queenstown
Today we begin in-country lectures with presentations from local experts on New Zealand's tourism industry, sustainable business practices, and the specifics of how Queenstown operators conduct their businesses. After lunch we'll be guided to some of the iconic points in the greater Queenstown area, with insight into their place in the local economy. After that, dinner on your own tonight allows the chance to sample some of the local restaurants of your choosing.

Day 5: Queenstown
It's a free day to explore on your own and sample some of the tourist delights that Queenstown has in abundance.

Day 6: Queenstown
An early start today as our specialist hiking guides lead us into the mountains on the famous Routeburn Track. The "track" (Kiwi for trail) winds its way through dense forest, across crystal-clear rivers, and into a high valley with dramatic peaks soaring above. Along the way, the guides will tell you all about the landscape and the human and natural history of the region. A substantial lunch is included for what may be the most scenic picnic spot you've ever seen.

Day 7: Queenstown
Today is at your leisure. You can take some time to work on your modules, or choose to make a day excursion to the spectacular fiord of Milford Sound.

Day 8: Queenstown to Aoraki/Mount Cook
Our chartered coach journey this morning takes us along the foothills of the Southern Alps before we reach our destination on the doorstep of New Zealand's grandest peaks. In the afternoon, we'll hike into the glacial Hooker Valley. The well-formed trail takes us past

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moraines, roaring rivers, and spectacular scenery as we penetrate to the very foot of Aoraki/Mount Cook. There's a good chance the lake at the end of the trail will be festooned with icebergs from the Hooker Glacier, and many of the steep valley walls above us will be sporting glaciers, too. The hike and our time at the Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Visitor Centre will give us excellent insight into the issues affecting the alpine regions of the country.

Day 9: Aoraki/Mount Cook to Christchurch
We're traveling this morning as we make our way down from the mountains and arrive in the South Island's largest city. After settling into our hostel, we'll have lectures from local businessmen about the New Zealand economy and business environment.

Day 10: Christchurch
Further lectures this morning help us to understand Christchurch's businesses as they recover from the major earthquakes that struck the city in 2011. The impact of a large-scale natural disaster on the economy makes this city an excellent natural experiment for testing some sustainable business practices. The afternoon is free time so you can explore more of the "Garden City," as Christchurch is known.

Day 11: Christchurch to Kaikoura
Before we move on to our next destination, we will take some time to give something to the local community as we pitch in to help the Student Volunteer Army. This grassroots organization was instrumental in helping residents in the aftermath of the earthquakes, and there is still a lot of work to be done getting some areas back to normal. We'll get our hands dirty on this service learning project before we head north to the small town of Kaikoura.

Day 12: Kaikoura
Perched on the thin silver of land between the mountains and the Pacific Ocean, Kaikoura is famous for the abundant marine life that comes close to shore here. The Māori people, the original inhabitants of New Zealand, have a long history here and we'll spend the morning with them to learn about their their connection to the sea and the land. Kaikoura is also a leader in "green" business practices and we'll hear from some of local managers this afternoon.

Day 13: Kaikoura
Dolphins! Today we head to the ocean to spend some time with the many hundreds of dusky dolphins that live along the Kaikoura coast. Wearing warm wetsuits and accompanied by marine mammal guides, we will swim with these animals on their terms. Dusky dolphins are particularly gregarious and playful, and it's not unusual to have several dozen of them zipping around you in the water, eyeing you curiously as you do the same to them. It's an unforgettable experience to share some time with a wild dolphin in its natural habitat. Marine wildlife is also big business in Kaikoura and this afternoon we'll hear about that from a tourism operator's perspective.

Day 14: Kaikoura to Motueka

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Our drive north this morning takes us through New Zealand's largest wine producing region. We'll stop to tour a winery and hear from the owners about their sustainable practices and the things they do to compete in a global market. After lunch at the vineyard, we make our way to the small provincial town of Motueka, the jumping off point for Abel Tasman National Park. It will be our base for the next couple of days, including homestays with local Kiwi families. There's nothing like sharing the home of a local family to really give you an understanding of a place, and the families who take us in here will show us their lifestyle while making us feel at home.

Day 15: Motueka
We'll get out on the water today as we explore the coast of New Zealand's most popular national park. With our expert guides, we'll take to sea kayaks and paddle the clear blue waters along the stunning shores of the park. Past golden sand beaches and rocky headlands, the coast here is home to fur seals and a variety of sea birds. At our lunch stop, we'll leave the kayaks and hike back along the famous Abel Tasman Coast Track, which winds in and out of the forest and along those gorgeous beaches. And to help us better understand the business side of things, we'll have a talk from the kayak company owner about his operation.

Day 16: Motueka to Wellington
We say goodbye to our homestay hosts this morning and travel east to catch the Interislander ferry that will take us to the North Island and New Zealand's capital city of Wellington. The three-hour crossing takes us through some of the gorgeous Marlborough Sounds before crossing Cook Strait.

Day 17: Wellington
As the nation's second-largest city, Wellington is a major business hub and therefore a great place to tap into a variety of business experts. We'll have a full schedule as we hear from several today, and include enough time for group discussions of their material.

Day 18: Wellington
Today is free time to work on modules or to get immersed in the city life of bustling Wellington.

Day 19: Wellington
Refreshed from our day-at-leisure, today we'll dive back into lectures and group discussions about a further array of New Zealand sustainable business issues.

Day 20: Wellington
This morning we visit Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum. The museum boasts world-class collections of art, science, and cultural items that illustrate New Zealand's place in the world. The afternoon is free as we prepare to move on to Australia.

Day 21: Wellington to Sydney

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A travel day as we switch from one Down Under country to another. Keep your senses open to the differences and similarities between the two. Upon arrival in Sydney, we'll make our way to our hostel, located in the heart of downtown. Dinner is on your own tonight as you explore the vibrant city center.

Day 22: Sydney
This morning we'll travel by ferry across the world-famous Sydney Harbour for our first Australian lectures, which will introduce us to the Australian economy and business environment. Over an Aussie barbeque lunch, we can begin to make comparisons with our recent experiences with the New Zealand business climate. There is free time this afternoon for further individual activities.

Day 23: Sydney
Today is a day for academics, as we finish up our module work and complete the final exam.

Day 24: Sydney
There's time for some last-minute souvenir shopping on our final free day. And tonight, we seal the program with a gala Farewell Dinner as we toast our new mates and reflect on experiences which will remain with us for years to come.

Day 25: Sydney to U.S.
After breakfast, we depart for Sydney International Airport, and then we're homeward-bound with the shared memories and new perspectives that can only be gained by studying abroad!

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