



RepriveAustralia Internship Program

About RepriveAustralia

RepriveAustralia was established to provide effective legal representation and humanitarian assistance to impoverished people facing the death penalty, to produce and publish information about the use of the death penalty and to raise awareness generally about human rights.

Established in May 2001, *RepriveAustralia* conducts internship and volunteer programs abroad and at home, produces quarterly news letters, supports events to raise awareness about the death penalty and liaises with other organisations in the fight to abolish the death penalty.

Amnesty International, the International Commission of Jurists, the Castan Centre for Human Rights, and Liberty Victoria have endorsed *RepriveAustralia* and its goals and the Honourable Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG is its founding patron.

A key part of the *RepriveAustralia* program is to identify volunteers for the Reprive (US) internship program which places interns at not-for-profit capital defence and capital appeal law offices, largely in the Southern states of the US. The Reprive (US) internship attracts volunteers from all over the world, including Australia, the US, the UK and Spain.

Who is the ideal intern?

An intern must:

- have an unshakable opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances.
- be capable of working independently or as part of a team.
- have initiative.
- have strong organisational skills.
- be sensitive to the delicate nature of the work.
- be willing to perform mundane administrative tasks as well as more interesting case work.

- be capable of conducting legal and/or factual research.
- have an understanding of the legal, political and social issues involved in the death penalty debate.
- make a commitment to participating for a minimum of three months in the internship program.
- be capable of working an average of 50 - 70 hours a week.
- have strong computer skills.
- have a drivers' licence and be able to drive long distances in both urban and rural settings.
- be a member of *RepriveAustralia*.
- have sufficient funds for living expenses and accommodation for the length of the internship.

The work is difficult and emotionally draining, the hours are long and the offices are under-resourced. But it is a life changing experience and many young Australians have seized it as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a difference, to stand up for something they believe in and to save lives. The internship can be a rollercoaster of emotions; some interns have had the experience of seeing a client walk free during their internship, while others have worked on a case up to the time of execution.

The program has real benefits for the participants. It offers the unique experience of working in a foreign country while supporting a humanitarian cause. The educational value of the program has been recognised by various universities which provide course credits to students for participating in the program and which have also provided financial assistance to interns.

Interns must be self-funded. On average, it costs interns between \$AUD 6,000 and \$AUD 8,000 to participate for three months, including airfares, accommodation and daily living expenses. Some have survived on less, but the more an intern has the easier the stay and the longer they can stay.

Most capital defence offices and capital appeal offices are tight knit, self sufficient communities and within a very short time an intern will feel at home. There is usually more than one intern in each office at any point in time, from Australia or elsewhere, and interns often choose to share accommodation and costs during their stay.

How to apply

An applicant must join *RepriveAustralia* before applying to be an intern. The membership application form and fee can accompany the internship application.

Applicants should email a copy of their CV, a sample of legal or academic writing and a letter describing their interest in the internship to contact@reprive.org.au.

RepriveAustralia will then contact then applicant to arrange for an initial interview in Australia. Suitable applicants will then be put in touch with the US intern co-ordinator for a telephone interview.

RepriveAustralia will then inform candidates about whether they have been successful in obtaining a placement in the US internship program.

Expectations of *RepriveAustralia*

All interns must agree to abide by the conditions of the Reprive (US) internship program, including:

- Complying fully with the terms of the US Visa.
- Obtaining travel insurance at the highest level available for the US.
- Signing and abiding by confidentiality agreements regarding the work performed during the internship.

Want to Know More?

For further information about *RepriveAustralia* or the internship program, go to www.reprive.org.au