By studying Business Globalisation—A Study Abroad USA, over a two week period at the University of Maryland you will receive credit for two elective courses in your RMIT degree. Undertaking this study tour gives you the opportunity to:

» Gain practical knowledge and an understanding of the total management process associated with the globalisation of business and international trade.

» Be introduced to a range of issues related to the topic of business globalisation within an American and global context.

» Focus on issues pertaining to technology, culture, politics, economics, ethics, social value creation, communication, marketing, human resource management and the business environment in a USA context.

» Receive credit for two elective courses towards your RMIT University degree.

Celebrating 13 years of international collaboration and success.

Since 2000 RMIT University in association with the Robert H Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland has conducted a two week study tour program in January of each year to Washington, DC and New York City. 

Objectives

You will be introduced to a range of issues related to the topic of business globalisation within a North American context.

You will have the opportunity to work in multi- and cross-disciplinary teams, and benefit from exposure to the ideas, knowledge and skills of peers from other disciplines, programs and year-levels.

Capabilities developed in this course include the ability to:

» understand business behaviour in different countries, clusters of countries, and subgroups within one country

» explore different approaches helpful to increasing this understanding

» gain first hand knowledge of cross-cultural differences through exercises and case studies.

Academic content

The USA study tour program gives you the opportunity to undertake a 24 credit point course (two general electives) as part of your degree, with a focus on business in the USA. You will enrol in either ISYS2372/ISYS2373 Business Globalisation—A Study Abroad USA and offshore teaching is done in conjunction with the University of Maryland and a number of Fortune 500 companies such as GE, Capital One, Stanley Black & Decker and Wal-Mart.

Prior to your departure intensive learning workshops will be held exploring cross-cultural, social and political issues associated with engaging in business across the globe. Upon return, there are further opportunities to share knowledge and reflect on experiences gained during the study tour component.

There are different assessment tasks for undergraduate and postgraduate students which may include a group presentation, reflective learning journal, individual assignment and analytical paper.
Itinerary
Information about joining the study tour group in the USA will be provided at pre-departure briefings. During the two-week intensive study period in the United States, you will be involved in:
» Lectures by leading American business school professors at the University of Maryland
» Site visits and briefings by the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, GE, Marriott International Inc, Stanley Black & Decker, Wal-Mart, Capital One and Austrade
» A cultural and historical tour of Washington, DC
» An optional three-day visit to New York City There will be an opportunity to explore Washington, DC sites such as the US Capitol, Washington Monument and the Smithsonian Museums. Please note that there will be free time for leisure pursuits.

Classes
Classes in the USA start on Sunday 5 January and conclude on Saturday 18 January 2014.

Additional travel
There will also be an opportunity to undertake additional sightseeing. Prior to and upon completion of studies, you will be free to travel around the world. Why not visit Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean or come home via Europe?

Cost
The cost of the Washington, DC study tour is approximately AU$4500 and includes airfares, taxes, insurance, accommodation and visa fees. Expenses including meals are the responsibility of the student. Further information about costs will be available at information sessions. Students will pay the standard tuition fees associated with studying the equivalent of two RMIT general elective courses and there is an authorised materials fee associated with the tour. If you are formally accepted into the tour, withdrawal after 30 September 2013 will result in $350 not being refundable.

Eligibility
The tour is open to postgraduate and final year undergraduate students studying an RMIT University program. Generally a credit average is required to attend the study tour; however postgraduate students in first year should submit a resume in place of an academic transcript. Partners and family are welcome.

Travel scholarships
There are a number of travel scholarships available to both local and international students. Each year over 20–30 students receive these scholarships.

How to apply
An application form is available from the RMIT Business study tour website. www.rmit.edu.au/bus/studytours

Closing date
Your application form must be completed and returned by Monday 3 June 2013 (first round) or Friday 30 August 2013 (second round). Early application is advised.

Tour Leader
Dr Paul R Cerotti is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Business IT and Logistics. He has been leading study tours since 1996 to North America, South Korea, Canada, China, Vietnam and Europe. Paul is currently the Global Study Tour Director as well as the Program Director of the Master of Commerce. Paul has lived and worked overseas predominantly in Italy, USA and China. Paul has a wealth of experience in the area of international education having published papers and presented at international conferences around the world on global capabilities of business students. The study of globalisation is one of Paul’s passions and he teaches postgraduate courses in Globalisation and Business IT, Business Background – Global Capabilities for the Global Workforce, Professional Business Practice and Business Globalisation – USA, China, Canada, and Vietnam.

Winner—Australian Learning and Teaching Award
Award for the development of sustainable study tours enhancing internationalisation of the student learning experience.

Winner—RMIT University Teaching Excellence Award
Award for internationalisation for enhancement of the student learning experience.

TESTIMONIAL
‘Participating in RMIT’s USA Study Tour was a once in a lifetime experience. The two week course allowed me to study a range of business topics that I would not have been exposed to in my degree back in Australia. However, the real highlights occurred outside of the classroom! Visiting the World Bank and the IMF were both experiences that I could never have organised as a member of the public. ‘Taking a class at an institution that is considered as prestigious as the Ivy League schools is something I will never forget. The friendships that developed within the group were also a key part of why the trip was so memorable. During our free time we participated in some genuine American pastimes such as attending a basketball game and seeing a Broadway play in New York, both things I wouldn’t have done if travelling alone. I am certain I will visit America again, but I know I will never have a trip like this again, with so many once in a lifetime opportunities and great memories!’

Lucia Philip
Master of Marketing