

Virginia Tech Rising Sophomore Abroad Program New Zealand and Australia Track

Itinerary Highlights

Please note that this draft track itinerary is subject to change based on site visit availability.

Day 1 – 4 Christchurch

Welcome orientation and group dinner



Walking Tour of Christchurch's earthquakes key sites

Walk with a specialist engineer through Christchurch's Central Business District and learn about key sites associated with the earthquakes of 2010 and 2011. Learn about the rebuild as well as some of the dynamic and innovative developments in this reimaged city.

Waka on Avon Cultural Activity

Try your hand at paddling a hand-crafted waka down the Avon River and learn about the importance of the waka (carved canoe) to Māori culture.



Antarctica New Zealand

Meet with representative from Antarctica New Zealand to learn about Antarctica New Zealand, their relationship with the US Antarctica Program and where they're at with the Scott Base Redevelopment. The renewal work includes a wind farm upgrade that will ensure the new base is powered by 97% renewable energy.

Site visit to WikiHouse factory

Learn about a housing solution that is efficient, adaptable, environmentally friendly, and empowering to local communities. Their solutions address all four pillars of sustainability: social, environmental, economic, and political. Get hands-on with their latest project.



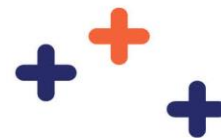
Orion New Zealand site visit

Learn about how Orion's electricity distribution network provides power to central Canterbury. Their network extends over 8,000 square kilometres delivering electricity to more than 211,600 homes and businesses. Visit the Control Room and a substation.



Air New Zealand Academy of Learning site visit

The Air NZ engineering and pilot training programs are designed and developed by aviation experts who understand the aviation industry on a global scale. Their students and professionals have hands-on access to innovative real-world experiences and state of the art facilities. Tour the classrooms and hangar.



Castle Hill and Arthur's Pass

Enjoy a walk amongst the spectacular and sacred limestone formations at Castle Hill, which was used in the filming of the Chronicles of Narnia. Then, take a few stairs to feel the full force and sound of fresh mountain water falling 131 m down one of New Zealand's most stunning waterfalls. The Devil's Punch Bowl is one of the best short walks in Arthur's Pass National Park.



Day 5 – 6 Auckland

Chelsea Sugar Factory tour

Walk through the working factory floor and travel around the site on the Chelsea Bay Train. See how raw sugar becomes the finished product, from the Sugar Mountain at the wharf, to the Melt House and the Pan Station. Taste the syrups Chelsea produces and have lunch at the café.

Rakon site visit

Take a factory tour at Rakon, one of the world's largest manufacturers of frequency control products and timing solutions. Their products can be found at the heart of many applications, from 5G networks to satellites and from emergency beacons to autonomous vehicles.

Free Day in Auckland

From your accommodation in the central city, explore Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, New Zealand's largest city. With many of the city's popular attractions within walking distance you will find plenty to enjoy, whether it's a walk around the harbor or up a dormant volcano, exploring the many beaches, or visiting the Sky Tower for spectacular views.



Day 7 – 9 Brisbane

Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary

Learn about koalas and other native Aussie wildlife at the world's largest koala sanctuary. A highlight for many visitors is hand-feeding kangaroos.

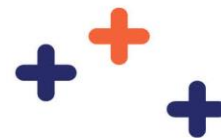


Brewery Behind the Scenes Technical Tour

Take a guided tour of the engine room and bottling plant of one of Queensland's iconic breweries.

University of Queensland Visit

Visit the University of Queensland which is home to the largest number of engineering study options in Queensland.



Port of Brisbane Tour

A Port of Brisbane guide will take you on a tour to see the towering cranes loading and unloading ships, trucks and trains moving cargo across the port, as well as the many products that moved in and out of this busy port every day. Gain an insight into the daily activities of the Port and learn how an efficient and sustainable port operates.



University Engineering Program visit

Spend time with local engineering faculty and students and enjoy a group lunch with them on campus.

Vivid Sydney

Vivid Sydney is an annual festival of light, music and ideas. Take a walk to see outdoor immersive light installations and projections and performances by local and international musicians. On your final night in Sydney, projections will transform iconic buildings and landmarks such as the Opera House and Harbour Bridge.



Day 10 – 13 Sydney

Visit Australia's Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)

ANSTO leverages great science to deliver big outcomes. By partnering with scientists and engineers, they apply new technologies to provide real-world benefits. Spend time with ANSTO's education team, research staff, and student interns to explore the facilities and scientific projects.

Mana Nura Aboriginal culture walking tour

Explore the history and culture of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, the original inhabitants of the Sydney basin. You will develop an appreciation of Aboriginal identity and experiences through learning about Aboriginal political history, their culture, and the contemporary issues facing their communities.

Sydney Opera House tour

Enjoy a guided tour of one of the world's most recognizable buildings. You will hear about why it took over 14 years to construct the venue and what makes it one of the busiest performing arts centers in the world.

Group Farewell Sunset Dinner Harbor Cruise

Enjoy a memorable group dinner with sensational views of Sydney at sunset and as it lights up with the opening night of the Vivid festival displays.

Day 14 Sydney to USA

Transfer from accommodation to Sydney Airport