

MEDIA RELEASE

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American students visit ACL Auburn College as part of social policy course

Students from Boston University, USA, undertaking an Australian Social Policy course visited the ACL College at Auburn today (Friday 22 February) as part of their Internship Program.

The Program offers the students, who are studying for various degrees, a semester of study in Sydney to focus on specific Australian social policy areas including refugees, asylum seekers and migration.

ACL Government Programs General Manager Michael Cox said this was an opportunity for university students from abroad to gain first-hand knowledge of such social policy areas through the work of ACL and also afforded a cross-cultural exchange.

“ACL is the largest provider of high quality English language education in Australia and has been working since 1998 to educate and settle newly arrived migrants and refugees as part of the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) and the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy (IHSS),” he said.

“ACL and its partners operate English language Colleges at Parramatta, Auburn, Blacktown, Fairfield, Cabramatta, Ermington, Liverpool, Campbelltown and in Adelaide, South Australia, as part of the Commonwealth Government’s program to integrate refugees and newly arrived migrants in to the Australian community.”

Adjunct Professor for Boston University’s Sydney Campus, Rosemary Oetojo, said this visit follows a successful tour of the ACL Auburn College by another group of Boston University interns last year.

“The focus of the policy approach is multiculturalism, with comparative analysis to other countries around the globe with significant migrant populations and migration history, such as Australia,” she said.

“A practical application of multicultural policies in Australia is indeed the AMEP and IHSS,” Ms Oetojo said.

After a tour of the Auburn College, ACL staff, including an IHSS Case Coordinator with a refugee background, gave presentations on multicultural policy and settlement programs and then answered questions from the students.

Their visit was topped off with a traditional Turkish lunch at Auburn’s Mado Café.

For further information, contact Annette Madjarian, ACL Media and Communications Manager on 9025 4746 or 0412 554 872 or Vincent Massey, ACL Media and Communications Officer on 9025 4744 or 0411 446 884