

Mark Maciolek

2013 from an educational perspective was the best year of my life. Beginning the year with the opportunity to attend the Inaugural Australian Libertarian Conference in Sydney was priceless and I always thank the Mannkal team for it. The chance to integrate and share opinions with professionals in the field spurred my desire to continue looking into economics from different policy and theoretical perspectives, finding out more about Libertarian ideologies and how they fit into society everyday.

Thanks to the University of Western Australia Study Abroad program, I was able to attend the University of Vermont for the Fall Semester, 2013. The University of Vermont is a fantastic tertiary institution that provides a practical outlook on education, where our assignments revolved around current affairs, Bloomberg platforms, Pro-Forma modeling and extensive use of Excel, things that a Finance and Economics major will find invaluable in his or her career.

The Economics department of the University of Vermont was impeccable; I was able to discuss practical and current topics with Professors at a professional and friendly level. The Economics department in my opinion at UVM gave students the opportunity to explore Heterodox economics at its finest. Notably, International Trade and Industrial Organisation were two classes I took that gave a Heterodox and practical perspective on economics, taught by Professor John Summa and Professor Richard Sicotte, respectively.

I thoroughly encourage all students wishing to explore schools of economic thought and practical economic applications away from Australia to visit the University of Vermont. Without the inspiration that Mannkal provided me, I would have never thought of widening my horizons outside of neo-classical economics. I also have to thank the diligence and professionalism of the University of Western Australia Study Abroad team; I was honoured to be representing UWA with the high reputation that it held in the United States. I encourage every student to apply for Mannkal Scholarships, apply for Study Abroad and to find for yourself what will be your field of expertise in the future.