

Dear Friends of the Academy,

I write to thank you so very much for your incredible generosity in awarding me with the Friends of the Academy Grant. Thank you for your support, and for your ongoing interest in the wellbeing of students like myself. Your contribution honestly makes a world of difference, and I am so grateful for your involvement in the WAAPA community.

I finished my secondment with Perth Festival last week, where I spent ten weeks within their programming department. Throughout the ten weeks, I learnt a range of skills as well as seeing classroom-learned-theory applied to real-life scenarios. Perth Festival were incredibly open, and I sat in on a range of meetings and was introduced to numerous respected arts managers from Perth. My supervisors at the Festival were fantastic mentors, and took time to explain company policies and procedures, teach me new skills, and impart their industry knowledge.

I was given a range of tasks and responsibilities over the ten weeks of my secondment, such as assisting the producer of the Museum of Water (a work commissioned by Perth Festival), researching and collating information surrounding the 2018 program, learning how to use industry-standard programs such as Tessitura and Datafest, writing copy for e-newsletters, organising VIP lists for events, and compiling a concise archive of the past decade of the festival. Perth Festival gave me meaningful tasks to complete, which were highly beneficial to the organisation, and I was given full ownership over these tasks. At no point was I treated as "just an intern", but rather as a member of the Perth Festival team. I truly learnt so much over the ten weeks, and being surrounded by such impressive arts managers was incredibly valuable to my learning.

On my last day of secondment, I was offered employment until the end of the 2018 festival within the ticketing and customer-service department. It was the skills and relationships that I developed during my secondment that allowed me to receive this offer.

Whilst my secondment was fulfilling, it was also draining; with working full days, writing my thesis, and working casually to support myself all at once. However, this stress was notably lessened due to the financial support awarded to me by the Friends of the Academy. The \$600 that I received from you allowed me to focus on my secondment experience, and to fully throw myself into the learning which the experience offered.

Once again, thank you for providing me with this grant - I am so thankful!

Kind Regards,
Arts Management