

**UTILIZATION OF CONSULTANT FIELD BASED LEARNING IN
AMERICAN AND AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES**

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Many universities utilize and, importantly, encourage students to engage in “field learning” projects. This educational model is widely used across academic disciplines. Business programs represent a special case, in that students may be involved as interns, as observers, and, in many cases, as consultants. We characterize this latter mode of instruction as consultant field based learning (CFBL). But, in business education, to what degree is CFBL utilized and how is it delivered? Is this a particularly American institution, or, is it used elsewhere?

This study reports the results of a comparative study of American business schools and Australian schools of commerce regarding utilization of field-based consultancy and associated critical variables. Respondents in the survey were administrators of 141 AACSB accredited business schools in the U.S. and 71 Australian commerce programs. U.S. respondents were mainly dean designees, while the Australian respondents were deans and others. Overall, student field-based consultancy is widely used in both countries. This indicates that it should be possible to implement international field-based consultancies between American and Australian business schools, which would, in turn, lead to increased potential for international study abroad for business students of both countries.