

Jarrood Hughes

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**AURORA**  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

2017 Aurora Indigenous Scholars  
International Study Tour  
Reflections



## Jarrod Hughes

### Monash University

*"I would just like to reaffirm that my visit to the London School of Economics was a highly rewarding experience and validated my decision to participate in the Study Tour."*

## Harvard

*Harvard appears to place great emphasis on encouraging students to build networks and providing access to impressive guest speakers. ... attending the lecture by Geoffrey Canada at the Kennedy School [was] uplifting and inspiring.*

*While the MPP does allow for a limited focus on social policy, it is a generalist program with an emphasis on building professional skills. I am more interested in developing my skills as a researcher with the aim of potentially becoming an academic.*



## Columbia & NYU

*While Columbia offers a Master of Public Administration, it is a two-year course and didn't appear to allow much scope for social policy research. I must confess, however, that my visit did change my perceptions. After meeting with the Director of the MPP and attending a couple of lectures, my interest in Columbia broadened.*

*Professor Ester Fuchs provided a comprehensive overview of the MPP and opportunities to focus on social policy [and] useful insight into the type of applicants the school was seeking.*

*It is difficult to limit my favourite part of the New York experience to an individual moment. My time in New York was thrilling and I enjoyed witnessing the diversity of the great melting pot city. During my university visits, I enjoyed contemplating life as a student in New York.*



*(L-R) Tamara Murdock (mentor), Eloise Bentley, Richard Potok, Jarrod Hughes, Marlee Silva, Sharon Kumar and Geoffrey Winters with Geoffrey Canada at Harvard*



## London School of Economics (LSE)

*All of my experiences with LSE on the study tour affirmed my preference to study at LSE. In particular, I felt that the Department of Social Policy was a suitable cultural fit for me, and would allow scope to explore critical approaches to social policy. I was also drawn to the multidisciplinary makeup of the Department and its engagement with real-world social policy problems. Visiting LSE confirmed my understanding that LSE is a global leader in social sciences and social policy.*

*Each of the meetings I had at LSE had an impact on me and were beneficial in different ways. However, the meetings which had the greatest impact were the meeting with Ruby Warber and the group introduction. The meeting with Ruby provided an invaluable insight into the experience of an LSE student and gave me a clear insight into the culture of the Department of Social Policy and the benefits of studying at LSE. The group introduction was conveniently timed after all my other meetings had taken place, by which time I had commenced my LSE application. The meeting provided extremely useful information on the application process, and in particular helped to demystify the personal statement component of the application. I took thorough notes during the presentation that was given, which I regularly referred to while completing my application.*

*My favourite moment from my visit to LSE was my meeting with the coordinator of one of the MSc programmes that I subsequently applied for. Despite meeting late in the afternoon, we chatted for over one hour about a range of topics relating to social policy, including the experience of the Indigenous Australian community. I was struck by his generosity and openness and the experience gave me confidence that LSE students would be well supported and have the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with academics. I would just like to reaffirm that my visit to LSE was a highly rewarding experience and validated my decision to participate in the Study Tour.*



## Cambridge

*While Cambridge offers a Master of Public Policy, there is limited scope for focus on social policy and a significant focus on the role of science in policy development, which is outside my area of interest. The visit to Cambridge did not change my limited preconceptions. However, I believed that I utilised my time effectively by visiting London universities during the Cambridge period.*

*[My meeting with] Dr Dennis Grube, the coordinator of the Master of Public Policy, was enjoyable and I shared many connections with Dr Grube (Australian, law graduate, ex-public service, interest in Aboriginal politics). However, the meeting revealed that the Cambridge MPP was not suited to my interests.*



*Jarrod Hughes with a fellow Study Tour Scholar at the accommodation in Cambridge*

## Oxford

*I found our time at Oxford to be highly engaging and enjoyable. I had a number of positive meetings while at Oxford, including with the Blavatnik School of Government and the Department of Social Policy and Intervention. Through my research, I had identified the MSc in Evidence-based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation as well-suited to my academic interests and ambitions. My strong interest in this programme was reinforced after two separate meetings with academics from the Department of Social Policy and Intervention.*

*The meeting that had the most significant impact on me during my time in Oxford was a meeting with Lucie Cluver, Professor of Child and Family Social Work within the Department of Social Policy and Intervention. While our meeting was short due to Lucie's busy schedule, I was quite inspired to hear about the very significant impact work that her work has had in influencing policy in relation to orphans of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Southern Africa. My interest in undertaking the MSc in Evidence-based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation at Oxford is primarily motivated by my goal to influence social policy in relation to Aboriginal incarceration. The meeting reinforced my interest in the programme and the field of social policy research.*



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