Enhancing Career Prospects for Indigenous Undergraduate Students

Information for Students

Contacts for staff and students:
Indigenous Undergraduate Work Integrated Learning Project Officer – Kathrine Clarke 03 90356570, Kathrine.clarke@unimelb.edu.au

Alternatively you can advise students to contact the Student Success Team at Murrup Barak or alternately you can contact the WIL team: science-academicprograms@unimelb.edu.au

Overview:
In 2016, the Indigenous Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program was designed and tailored for the purpose of improving existing internship/studentship programs across the University's faculties, and it is envisaged that existing programs will be attuned to the needs of Indigenous students, and industry. Providing pathways to developing enabling programs and activities that better enhance the career prospects of Indigenous Undergraduate students, now and in future years to come.

What is involved?
The internship involves a placement of 80-100 hours in a single organisation, working as an intern while gaining experience of the science and technology-related work conducted in that organisation. Students build on their existing skills, with guidance, and are expected to contribute productively to a project or series of activities set up by the organisation for their placement.
Participating in the internship will also enable students to observe the nature of the organisation more generally – its structure, how different components of the organisation interact, how projects and teams are organised to achieve their goals. Interns will build on their science-related skills, with guidance, including their capacity to contribute productively to a project or series of activities set up by the organisation for their placement.

Eligibility:
Eligibility is for Indigenous Undergraduate students enrolled in the **SCIE30002 Science and Technology Internship:** http://science.unimelb.edu.au/students/enrich-your-studies/science-technology-internship.

Or the **Bachelor of Arts: Work Integrated Learning (Internships):** http://arts.unimelb.edu.au/students/undergraduate/work-integrated-learning-internships#bachelor-of-arts-internship.

Students must be:

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- Studying a Bachelor degree in Science, Biomedicine, Engineering or Technology in 2nd year of studies going into 3rd year of studies are eligible.

  OR
- Studying a Bachelor of Science (Extended), in 3rd year of studies going into 4th year of studies are eligible.

For Students:
Indigenous Students should contact the Indigenous Work Integrated Learning Officer at Murrup Barak to assist with the step-by-step process and what is expected of students when undergoing an Internship with a Host Organisation. Alternatively you may feel confident and prefer to apply into the course yourself, if so you can easily access the Internship webpage via the Murrup Barak website or through the links provided above.

Students are expected to find their own placement, with support from Indigenous Work Integrated Learning Officer at Murrup Barak or the Work Integrated Learning Consultant. Pre-enrolment workshops will provide additional information and resources, on finding organisations to approach, preparing applications and negotiating the placement. To begin with, you could conduct an internet search, find professional associations in your area of interest and search the library databases to locate possible organisations to approach.
Please see attachment (A) for the step-by-step process when seeking a placement and enrolling into Internship subject.

What sort of work do interns do?
It depends on the organisation. Your host organisation will provide an experience that is authentic, so the nature of the work you do will vary from placement to placement. You may spend time shadowing members of staff, contributing in an assisting role to many activities. You may be asked to be a team member on a project for the duration of your internship – an ongoing project, or one that is completed by the time you leave. You may be assigned to an individual project that can be completed within the 80-100 hours of your placement. Alternatively, your placement may be a combination of these.

Academic component:
Before embarking on your placement you will participate in compulsory induction and pre- placement seminars that will prepare you for the expectations of your placement, including skill development in communication and project management. The sessions will also develop your understanding of science and technology-related industries and organisations.

A session to “touch base” mid-way through the placement will include an industry perspective, and a series of staff-led but largely student-presented sessions will complete the subject (also compulsory!), in which you will learn from the insights and experiences of your colleagues.

How will I be assessed?
The several components of assessment seek to evaluate your capacity to reflect on your experience as well as to gain a specific understanding of the organisation in which you have been placed. These include: a career case study based on an information interview with an employee in your placement organisation; presentation on a work-related or discipline specific topic (to be presented in post-placement classes); and a reflective essay on the placement experience, connecting your studies and workplace learning. Seminar attendance and satisfactory performance on the placement are also required.

What are the benefits?
Many! Some of the benefits are expressed in the subject objectives as follows - on completion of *Science and Technology Internship*, it is anticipated that you will be able to:

- Identify and articulate your knowledge and skills and apply them to relevant science organisational contexts and work-settings; as well as linking them to specific professions and career pathways.
- Produce original work in an appropriate format which demonstrates scientific analytical, research and problem-solving skills;
- Review and reflect on the process and output of a work project/placement in order to articulate your academic and career development learning from the experience;
- Understand the value of industry and professional networks and their importance to self-reliance, lifelong learning and career progression.

Of course there will be many other less tangible benefits in enabling you to confirm or refine the direction you take after your course, emerging with a greater confidence in your ability to make a meaningful contribution in a science-related workplace, awareness of the strengths you offer to a future employer as well as areas to further develop as you prepare for life beyond your degree.

Key points to remember:

- You need to find your own placement
- Placements are unpaid
- You are covered by our insurances whilst on your placement
- Your placement must be approved by the Subject Coordinator before your enrolment in the subject will be confirmed
- You may add the subject to your study plan as “planned” but this enrolment will not be confirmed until your host organisation agreement is approved by the Subject Coordinator.

Please check the University handbook **for details of the subject prerequisite requirements, non- allowed subject combinations and assessment requirements.**