David Hensher, director of the Institute of Transport and Logistics (ITLS), has come up with a practical solution for graduands looking to gain work experience.

Professor Hensher has established the Post Graduation Work Experience Program, offering ITLS students the opportunity to undertake a paid 12-week full-time work placement with one of about 20 industry partners in a transport and logistics or supply chain management related field.

Professor Hensher says students are required to apply for the program as they would any advertised job and are selected on their academic performance, attitude and communication skills. They are then matched with an organisation that best matches their skill sets.

Some of the transport and logistics companies already involved include, AWA, PwC, Bus NSW, Fletcher International exports, Booz and Co, TWU and Veolia. Professor Hensher says interest from other organisations wishing to take on new students has grown significantly after the initial success of the program.

“It is incredibly rewarding to take calls from organisations complimenting us on the quality of students we’ve sent them and to date 80 percent of those who have undertaken the program have secured full-time positions when their placement has concluded,” he said.

Mark Rainbird, the managing director of information and communications technology business AWA Limited, said he had been highly impressed with the academic credentials of the two students he had taken on – Bob Yueming Yin and Peng Cui – as well as their great work ethic and flexibility.