Don't miss this opportunity to meet potential future employees of your company... By supporting ‘Week in Industry’ – at no cost to you – you will be supporting your industry!

Introducing the Program

Each year a week long industrial experience program is held during the second term for all students undertaking the third year of the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

Participation in the ‘Week in Industry’ Program is compulsory for the students and for most of them it is excellent preparation for the ten to twelve week Work Experience Unit which is a pre-requisite for graduation.

“Week in Industry” 2015

This year the Program will be held from August 31 to September 4. Students are exempted from classes and are required to present themselves at the place of work allocated to them from the list of potential companies and, for all intents and purposes, become members of staff and undertake an assignment for the company.

The company provides them with a place to work, and someone to introduce them to their task and act to overview the project. The students generally work in teams of two-three on a project, and direct supervision may be provided by a Postgraduate Student of the university especially employed to give direction and support, generally on site, if the partner company desires. Most companies however prefer to assign a company staff member as ‘mentor’ to the students.

At the end of the week the students prepare a report and presentation, to be delivered to the company staff and supervisors. This report is then submitted to the School. Note that the work the students undertake should be of relevance to you and your organisation and the outcomes aim to be a positive contribution to your company.

How does it work?

The brief given to the students is that they will be required to undertake an assignment as requested by the host company. Generally this might involve solving problems that the company has identified, or taking part in a larger project where some analysis of a situation, taking specific experimental data, etc, is required.

Students are covered by the University for insurance purposes, and any intellectual rights remain the property of the company.

The company appoints a member of its staff to welcome and brief the students on their arrival on Monday, August 31, at a time indicated by the company. During the brief the students are introduced to the company and informed on
what is expected of them, as of any other staff member, in terms of working hours, safety requirements, rules and regulations, etc.

Thus, generally speaking, the Monday morning is allowed for induction into the company, Monday afternoon to Thursday lunch work on the assigned task, Thursday afternoon preparation of the report which is to be presented on Friday to company staff, the supervisor, and generally a member of the School staff who attends. Usually a company member is involved in an overview of the students’ presence and to ‘mentor’ the students, however direct supervision may be entrusted to a Postgraduate Student appointed by the School who follows the students and ensures the level of quality of their work.

Students are instructed to wear long pants, and preferably long sleeved shirts and metal-cap shoes; they are also requested to bring their hard-hats with them to work. They are advised to bring their own lunch, at least on the first day, until they become better acquainted with the layout and facilities of the site.

**Follow-up activities**

Selected teams are given the opportunity to present their project outcomes at a Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Foundation Meeting, to which members of host companies will be invited.

**Advantages to companies**

It is usual for the company hosting the students to assign them a task which is intended to resolve some important, but limited problem. Their work and report therefore becomes a valuable resource to the company in terms of producing an outcome which delivers a tangible advantage to them. No payment for the Program is required from the company

Such a task obviously intrinsically rewards the students in that they feel that they have contributed to their host company.

Such positive outcomes for both parties have been noted every year, with instances where the students’ contribution was greatly appreciated by the company in terms of the value added to their projects and operations.

The ‘Week in Industry’ on site also provides companies with the opportunity to meet students that are soon to graduate and become members of the Chemical Engineering profession.

It may well be the opportunity to identify potential future employees, in a market which for some time has become tight in terms of professional staff.

Suffice it to say that in many cases host companies have invited students that were involved in the Program in their workplaces to return to undertake their Work Experience unit of study with them, with some excellent results in terms of outcomes and return on the investment of taking on the work experience Programs.

**How to become a ‘Week in Industry’ host**

This is the easiest part! Simply ring Skender Bregu, Foundation Executive Officer, on 043 043 8376, or 9351 5284, or email him on skender.bregu@sydney.edu.au, or submit your expression of interest by faxing the attached form to him.

You can then discuss the practicalities of the Program with him or the academic staff who teach the students.