What is professional experience?
Our engineering students are required to complete the equivalent of at least 12 weeks of full-time exposure to professional practice for accreditation.

Professional experience is intended to provide students with authentic, practical and experiential learning in a professional environment. This experience gives students an insight into what it’s like working in industry, exposing them to industry challenges and giving them some perspective on career expectations.

Students could undertake work in areas such as design, analysis or testing, be involved in project management, investigatory assignments and onsite inspections, technical writing projects and more.

Benefits for your organisation
- access to talented students who can bring new perspectives to your organisation
- an additional resource for key projects
- a potential recruitment channel
- the opportunity to influence the quality of the future workforce by cultivating work ready graduates
- a tool for staff engagement and development by providing mentoring opportunities for staff
- the ability to engage and strengthen your relationship with the University
- enhance your company profile through brand awareness
- contribute to your organisation’s corporate social responsibility.

Duration and structure of professional experience
Professional experience must be equivalent to at least 12 weeks (35 hour week) of full-time exposure to professional practice. Some students prefer to complete their professional experience during the University winter and summer breaks, however some are able to complete it part-time during semester.

If 12 continuous weeks is not feasible for your organisation, professional experience can be completed cumulatively throughout the year. We can work with you to tailor shorter periods with a minimum duration of four weeks.
The process
To encourage self development, our students are responsible for securing their own professional experience. Once they have identified a suitable position with your organisation, an agreement form must be completed and signed by both the student and you, the professional experience provider.

This agreement sets out the nature of the position and the responsibilities of the student, the University and the professional experience provider. It includes items such as insurance requirements, level of supervision, intellectual property, confidentiality and privacy obligations applicable to the professional experience.

Once completed, the form is submitted to the University for approval to ensure that the professional experience meets the requirements of the course. It then becomes the formal agreement between the University and the professional experience provider. Upon commencement of the professional experience, the student would be expected to go through normal induction processes (including safety). The appointed supervisor must supervise the student for the duration of the professional experience and assess their performance. At the conclusion of the professional experience, the supervisor is required to provide the University with a performance report.

Your responsibilities
As a professional experience provider, it is your responsibility to:
- confirm the objectives and learning outcomes of the professional experience
- provide the student with work related activities relevant to the intended learning outcomes
- ensure a safe and suitable work environment, including site and safety induction
- complete forms and agreements supplied by the student and the University
- give feedback on the student's progress and performance
- provide quality supervision and assessment of learning outcomes.

We encourage our professional experience to be paid, however professional experience can also be unpaid. Please refer to the Student Placement information available from the Australian Government's Fair Work Ombudsman's website.

We recommend that the amount of money paid to a student should reflect the type of activities and work the student is expected to perform during the professional experience. Information on how much students should be paid during professional experience and other entitlements is published by both Professionals Australia and APESMA.

Insurance
Students undertaking unpaid professional experience (and are not employed by the organisation) are covered by the University's insurance policy, including public liability insurance, professional indemnity insurance and personal accident insurance.

If the student is being paid for their professional experience or is employed by the organisation, the employer is responsible for the relevant insurance, including cover for Worker's Compensation.

For more information
Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies | Engineering Sydney
T +61 2 9351 5768 | E keiran.passmore@sydney.edu.au

CRICOS 00026A