

Information for Students

Overview

Undertaking the Science and Technology Internship will enable you to gain a real experience of working in a science or technology related workplace. The academic program that provides the framework for the internship will help you to learn about the nature of careers in science and technology and to think more about your own skills, personal development needs and potential career pathways.

SCIE30002 is a 12.5-point subject, offered at level 3, and may be approved as a **science elective** within your course. The subject will be offered in **Semesters 1, 2 and the Summer Semester**.

What happens in the internship?

The internship involves a placement of 80-100 hours in a single organisation, working as an intern while gaining experience of the science-related work being conducted in that organisation. Participating in the internship will also enable you 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.

You will build your science-related skills, with guidance, including your capacity to contribute productively to a project or series of activities set up by the organisation for your placement.

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 online pre-placement sessions will also develop your understanding of science and technology-related industries and organisations. Although the pre-placement seminars and assessment components are all online with no face-to-face classes, the subject coordinator and the academic engagement team will be available for any queries you may have during your internship.

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. Satisfactory performance on the placement is also required.

What are the benefits

Many! Some of the benefits are expressed in the subject objectives as follows - on completion of the *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.

How do I find a placement?

Students find their own placement, with support from the Subject Coordinator, the Faculty's Careers & Industry Consultant and Student Success. 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 industry area of interest and search the library databases ([Company 360](#)) to locate possible organisations to approach. Additionally you could utilise the LinkedIn Alumni function to provide high-level insights about alumni who studied in the same area and see their career trajectories.

You will need to submit an application and may be required to go through a selection process with your nominated host organisation, so this work needs to begin in the semester *before* you plan to enrol in the internship subject. If you wish to meet with a Careers Consultant to assist with your application, resume and interview preparation, 15 minute drop in appointments can be made by dropping into Ground Floor, Stop1 at the following times; Monday 9am-5pm, Wednesday 9am-6pm and Friday 10am – 5pm.

Key points to remember:

- You need to find your own placement
- Placements can be 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

Enrolment

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 SubjectCoordinator.

Please check the University [handbook](#) for details of the subject prerequisite requirements, non- allowed subject combinations and assessment requirements.

Subject enquiries

Careers & Industry Team: science-academicprograms@unimelb.edu.au

Subject Co-ordinator: [Professor Janet Hergt](#)

Science & Technology Internship Subject SCIE30002 & SCIE90017

Suggested timeline to securing an internship



Applications for Summer close Monday 4 December
Semester 1 applications close Monday 5 February

More information: science.unimelb.edu.au/students/enrich-your-studies/internship-subjects

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