WHAT'S INVOLVED IN A PLACEMENT?

An industry placement is an agreement between UQ and the host organisation to provide a project-based experience for a Research Higher Degree student. The UQ Research Higher Degree Placement Program provides mutual benefit to both the student and the organisation in which they are placed.

Project briefs are designed through consultation between UQ and the organisation to meet a specific research need. Examples of projects that can be undertaken include:

- organisational structure mapping and process optimisation
- performance measurement
- efficiency auditing
- stakeholder survey and analysis
- benchmarking and competitor analysis
- assessing community attitudes towards an issue or service

Placements generally have a duration of between 30 and 90 calendar days. There is usually flexibility to undertake placements full-time, or part-time, (subject to advisor approval) depending on the needs of the organisation. Small group placements may also be arranged.

The Graduate School often has existing placement opportunities with partner organisations. You can also approach an organisation to discuss working on a project with them and see if they are interested in hosting you for a placement.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Undertaking an industry placement will allow you to showcase your skills in a real world environment.

It’s becoming increasingly common to find RHD graduates in diverse work places where their research, project management, and communication skills are highly valued.

A placement can enhance your career options and assist you in developing skills in planning, strategy, communication and leadership.

Placements are a great way to increase your professional networks and experience a workplace environment outside your area of research.

By undertaking a placement as part of your program you can:

- stand out from the crowd - UQ alone awarded 665 PhDs in 2015
- gain skills in real world, applied research
- make new contacts and strengthen your employment prospects
- translate research findings into meaningful outcomes
- learn how to apply the skills you have gained
- improve your CV
- widen your network into new areas
- demonstrate adaptability by working in a different workplace
- enhance your academic transcript - Graduate School placements are assessed as a learning activity
IS A PLACEMENT RIGHT FOR ME?

Even though undertaking a placement has many benefits, it may not be suited to everyone. Placement opportunities are limited, and it is important to carefully consider your suitability for a placement.

You can talk to the Graduate School's Placement Coordinator about your particular situation if you would like some advice or guidance in approaching an organisation to host you. You should discuss the possibility of undertaking a placement with your advisory team. Their support is crucial, and the Graduate School will contact them prior to organising a placement for you.

A placement is best suited to RHD students who are progressing successfully (on time) through their milestones and have not exhausted all of their available extension time. Students undertaking professional placements may be eligible for a milestone extension.

ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

✓ Currently enrolled at UQ in a PhD or MPhil
✓ Passed the confirmation milestone
✓ No milestones overdue
✓ Domestic or international student (in most cases)
✓ Supportive advisory team
✓ Sufficient time available, along with time management skills
✓ Flexibility to dedicate 30-90 days to the placement

REQUIREMENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL INDUSTRY PLACEMENT

1. Your milestones must be completed and up to date.
2. Your advisory team must support the placement.
3. You must have an industry partner willing to host you.

REGISTER YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Contact the Graduate School
Level 6, Building 62, St Lucia Campus

T +61 7 3346 0503
E graduateschool@uq.edu.au
W cdf.gradschool.uq.edu.au/placements

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS AND VIEW CURRENTLY AVAILABLE PLACEMENTS