Engage with UNSW Science

Mentor, collaborate and work with the next generation of science graduates.
UNSW’s founding motto is ‘Scientia Corde Manu et Mente’ or ‘Knowledge by heart, hand and mind’. This reflects our commitment to community, connections, and impact through pioneering research and partnerships addressing the world’s most pressing problems, from climate change, public health and human rights.

UNSW Science is committed to building meaningful, engaging relationships with the community. By enabling partnerships between our passionate undergraduate science students and the workforce, we envision a future of ‘work-ready’ alumni. Our work experience partners not only get our brightest minds but are also supporting and shaping the future leaders in their industry.
At UNSW Science, we strive to teach our students so they are work-ready. Our innovative work experience programs partner with industry, government and community organisations so that our students have practical skills and knowledge relevant to the workforce.

Our community of eight science and technology disciplines teach over 7,000 students. Over 700 researchers not only inspire our students, but find solutions to society’s most pressing problems.

“We are always seeking opportunities to collaborate more with industry. We work with our industry partners in a number of ways to produce better science, create jobs and to have a global impact.”

- Professor Emma Johnston AO, Dean of UNSW Science

Each of our Schools aim to produce students equipped for the future workforce.

**Aviation**
Aviation is more than just flight training. Aviation offers degrees in both flying and management. Half the flying degree is allocated to flying theory with over 200 hours of flight training in aeroplanes and over 30 hours in simulators, combined with a number of electives drawn from the management program. Management students study areas such as airline and airport operational management, aviation safety and security, aviation finance, human factors, law, physics and much more.

Research expertise range from fatigue in pilots to optimising aircraft maintenance.

**School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences (BABS)**
Students learn both practical skills and knowledge of microbiology, gene regulation, cell and molecular biology and biotechnology. Students develop an analytical approach to problem-solving and an appreciation of how innovations are developed to address unmet needs in health, disease and the environment.

Research in this school includes genomics and bioinformatics, microbiology and microbiomes, molecular and cell biology and synthetic biology.

**School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences (BEES)**
The natural features of the earth from the inner core to the atmosphere are studied. This includes the living world around us, the atmosphere and the ground below.

The threats that face biodiversity, climate and our oceans are researched, as well as the origin of life on earth.

**Chemistry**
Chemists study organic and inorganic chemistry using the ever-evolving analytical skills that are needed for the future. Developing laboratory skills is a significant part of the discipline.

Research in the School explores the relationship between subatomic particles, developing synthetic materials and the use of natural materials.

**Materials Science**
The properties of materials we use every day such as metals, ceramics and biomaterials are studied for future technologies. Real-world problems are solved using a combination of physics, chemistry and engineering.

Research is focused on sustainably designed materials and processes in four key areas: transport and infrastructure, energy and environment, electronics and communications, biomedical and health.

**Mathematics & Statistics**
Students in this School develop analytical thinking and quantitative problem-solving skills that can be applied in a range of multidisciplinary settings. They may specialise in statistics, applied mathematics, pure mathematics or data science.

Research areas cover a diverse range of topics such as biostatistics, computational mathematics, fluid dynamics, finance and risk analysis and number theory.

**Physics**
Physics is the study of the movement of particles, from subatomic particles to galaxies. Electromagnetism, acoustics and atmospheric science are all studied by physicists.

Research areas include solar energy, low energy electronics and quantum computation will lead to next generation application in IT technology. Science and many other disciplines are also rewarded with research in new computational techniques and applications.

**Psychology**
Psychology is the study of the mind and behaviour, which affects all areas of society, life and the workforce. Studies cover mental processes such as learning and memory, social behaviour, personality, and the causes and treatment of psychological disorders.

Psychology research is diverse, including chronic pain and the mind, trauma and recovery and vulnerability versus resilience.

**School of Medical Sciences (SOMS)**
SOMS sits under the Faculty of Medicine and Health but teaches into undergraduate Science degrees. Science students have the opportunity to study anatomy, neuroscience, pathology, physiology and pharmacology.

Research expertise includes neuroscience, molecular biology and molecular pharmacology, inflammation and infectious disease, cardiovascular disease and cancer.
Why Engage With Us

Science students are in demand more than ever before

Science students bring valuable transferable skills in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Through their STEM training, students develop logical, analytical and lateral thinking skills based on real-world application. They develop research skills in a collaborative environment, sharing creative ideas and fresh perspectives while honing crucial workplace skills such as teamwork, communication and complex problem-solving.

How can your organisation benefit from hosting a UNSW Science student?

Our undergraduate work experience model is designed so both you and our motivated students benefit from the experience. Providing a flexible, personalised experience is at the heart of our program. We consider feedback from our students and partners (such as skill gaps), and tailor our programs accordingly. As well as presenting a chance to evaluate a potential employee in your workplace, you’ll access diverse insights from next generation of graduates, and you’ll support the development of future leaders in your sector.

The disciplines of Science studied at UNSW

If you are looking for specific scientific skillsets, students can be recruited from one or more of the following Science disciplines.

- Anatomy
- Aviation
- Bioinformatics
- Biology
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Climate Science
- Data Science and Decisions
- Earth Science
- Ecology
- Food Science
- Genetics
- Geography
- Immunology
- Marine and Coastal Science
- Materials Science
- Mathematics
- Microbiology
- Molecular and Cell Biology
- Neuroscience
- Pathology
- Pharmacology
- Physics
- Physiology
- Psychology
- Statistics

Transferrable skills our students can bring to your organisation

- Analytical Thinking
- Complex Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Creative thinking and ideation
- Reasoning and decision making
- Technical and scientific communication
How to Engage With Us

Work Integrated Learning bridges the gap between study and employment

Work Integrated Learning (WIL) successfully transitions talented and motivated students from the classroom to the workforce. Rather than focusing solely on exceptional grades, organisations are now recruiting students they know will fit their culture and work ethic. The organisation trials great students, and the students get invaluable professional experience.

UNSW Science WIL has been structured with you in mind

WIL is work experience within an academic framework. The experience is structured to enhance and support both our students and partners. Before students begin the program, they complete units on workplace etiquette to prepare them for a professional engagement. During their time with you, students will have coursework to complete, designed to develop their professional skillset in areas relevant to the work experience (see page 12). This coursework also ensures students co-design realistic goals for the work placement, with your work targets in mind.

An academic staff member will not only monitor your students’ progress through a reflective e-portfolio of their achievements and experience on placement, but they will also be on hand to support partners if any queries arise throughout the engagement.

We’ve developed two ways to engage with our ambitious undergraduate Science students.

1. Science Work Placement
   Similar to the traditional internship or work experience model, students are hosted within your organisation. They work on a specific project or set of work tasks, supported by UNSW-led professional development and mentorship. See page 9 for further details.

2. Science Industry Project
   If you aren’t ready to take on an intern in a traditional work experience model, the Science Industry Project is a new, innovative way to engage UNSW Science students. See page 14 for further details.

Similar to the traditional internship or work experience model, students are hosted within your organisation. This immersive experience gives our students a taste of working in their chosen field while bringing in fresh talent to your organisation.

A workplace supervisor from your organisation and a UNSW Science academic will monitor their progress, supporting their learning and development with assessments related to the placement.

The student will work at your organisation in-person or remotely while contributing to a live project or work tasks of your choice. The activities will be related to the students’ area of study while contributing something of value to your organisation.

Your questions answered

1. When will the student complete WIL?
   The university operates with three standard terms throughout the year, plus a summer term. This UNSW+ academic calendar enables students to build their work experience into their degree in any term, so partners have access to UNSW students all year round. See page 17 for specific 2022 dates.
2. How long is a work placement?
   We provide three work placement options. A part-time placement is a minimum of 105 hours in one term. A more intensive option is available, which is a minimum of 210 hours in one term. Our third option is 210 hours spread out over two terms.

3. Can students work remotely?
   Due to many workplaces enabling remote working across their organisation, remote working is acceptable if applicable to the particular work placement. In this circumstance, students are expected to be onboarded and supported by a workplace supervisor as per any staff in your organisation working remotely. Some experiences (field work or lab work for example) may not be translatable in a remote working setting, however we are happy to discuss options with partners if a suitable alternative can be developed. Further information on remote working can be found on page 14.

4. What remuneration is required for interns?
   Both paid and unpaid internships are accepted into this program. As this program contributes elective credit towards a science degree, unpaid internships are permitted. However, we encourage hosts to offer paid internships where it is possible to do so.

5. What does the program involve?
   The program requires you to provide your interns with a set of tasks or a project related to their field of study and ability. The student is expected to contribute productively to your organisation while gaining invaluable practical experience. The student may be expected to do any of the following activities:
   - shadow members of staff in science-related roles
   - contribute in an assisting capacity to a range of activities
   - be a team member on a project for the duration of the internship, an ongoing project, or one completed during the program engagement
   - be assigned to an individual project that can be completed within the time frame of the placement
   - office-based tasks including data entry, literature searches, or preparation of figures for presentation or marketing materials
   - hands-on laboratory or field-based activities
   If you are uncertain about a suitable position description, we can work with you to co-design an appropriate experience for the program.

6. What preparation can you expect of an intern?
   The intern will be in the later years of their degree and will have a sound grounding in scientific principles and methodology. As noted on page 6 the student will have developed the knowledge of their scientific discipline and transferable STEM skills. In addition, they will have completed modules on Workplace Behaviour, Workplace Communication and Reflective Practice in preparation for their internship.

7. What is expected of the internship host?
   As a host, you will be expected to provide meaningful work experience catering to the ability and skills of your intern. A staff member will be allocated to the student to provide daily guidance, mentorship and feedback on the student’s performance. At the end of the placement, the supervisor is expected to provide feedback via a short survey.

8. What support does UNSW Science provide for students?
   A WIL Academic Lead will provide support for the student throughout their work placement and academic learning journey. Applying scientific skills to the real world is an exciting, immersive experience for our ambitious students, and assessments will be provided to support and structure the learning experience:
   - Students will complete a Placement Plan at the start of the placement. This helps the student articulate their professional goals and what they want to achieve during the placement. Completed on their first day, the plan will be co-developed by the student and the supervisor and signed off by the workplace supervisor.
   - Students will work through selection of online WIL Modules at their own pace, which will allow them to expand their professional skillset according to their career goals and the needs of your internship. (see the highlight on page 12)
   - Students complete a reflective e-portfolio throughout the placement, reflecting on their learnings, development and achievements.

9. What other support does the student receive during the work placement?
   Three online workshops will support the student through the placement. The student will be connected with other students undertaking a WIL experience, providing a community of like-minded students and a peer-supported learning journey.

10. I’m in! How can I get involved?
    The first step is to complete an EOI form. We will contact you to discuss the type of internship, the number of students and when you would like the program to occur. We can also work with you to develop a position description and selection criteria. There are three recruitment options.

    - Option 1: Your workplace handles the full recruitment process. Students apply directly to your organisation, and you select the interns.
    - Option 2: Students apply to UNSW Science, and we shortlist the interns based on your selection criteria. You can interview and select the successful candidates from our shortlist.
    - Option 3: Students apply to UNSW Science, and we handle the full recruitment process (shortlisting, interview, selection of interns).

   You will need to review our WIL Agreement and sign prior to recruitment. (A copy can be found in the Commercial Considerations section on page 17)

Once the students are selected for your organisation, they will be enrolled into the program, ready to start the work placement on the agreed date.
UNSW Science students can tailor their WIL experience with self-paced professional development modules. Their selection of modules is based on the relevance to their work placement and their career goals.

**School WIL Module**
Professional development content specific to their science discipline.

**Understanding Your Organisation**
Introduction to organisational theory, structure, function and culture.

**Leading Others**
Covers key leadership behaviours and how they can be applied in a range of professional contexts.

**Leading Self**
Covers concepts such as resilience, time management and self awareness in a professional context.

**Intellectual Property and Commercialisation**
Introduction to IP and commercialisation within a science/R&D context.

**Leading Science for Impact**
Overview of the social context of science and approaches to achieving impact through science.

**Principles of Project Management**
Introduction to the project management principles and methodologies.

**More?**
We welcome feedback and strive to address the current and future needs of our partners.
If you are keen to engage our students, but aren’t ready to bring interns into your workplace, the Science Industry Project is a great alternative! This option provides your organisation with a virtual team of talented and motivated Science students to deliver results on specific projects. Collaborative problem-solving is at the heart of the Science Industry Project.

What we provide
We will co-design a project brief with you, based on your project or research needs. Any work that would benefit from extra support, fresh ideas or a problem-solving approach is suitable for the program. We then provide multidisciplinary teams of top science students to deliver a variety of perspectives and solutions for your brief over a 10-week term. These teams of four to five students work on your project brief on campus at UNSW, or remotely under the guidance of a UNSW academic. You connect with students once a week via an online meeting to monitor their progress and provide feedback. Students will present their findings at the end of the project engagement, contributing something of value to your organisation.

Our student teams are supervised by dedicated academic staff, carefully selected to ensure they have the relevant expertise according to your brief. Teams are further supported with mentorship by industry experts and guest lecturers. Assessments and learning content are designed to enable teams to deliver results to a high standard, with bespoke workshops on High Performing Teams, Project Management and Professional Problem Solving.

Results tailored to YOUR needs
The support your student teams receive is dynamic and designed with you in mind. We start with your unique project brief and customise learning content to best support your brief. Not only do we source relevant academic staff and industry experts, we have dedicated space in the program for custom designed workshops based on the specific skills and knowledge required for your project deliverables.

What you provide
As a UNSW Science partner in the program, you will provide one or more briefs for our teams of multidisciplinary Science students. The briefs can be distinct short projects, challenges, scoping exercises or sets of research tasks, with an accompanying set of deliverables.

To maximise the experience for both your organisation and the students, we ask that the brief is:

• aligned to the core business of your organisation
• provides a meaningful contribution to the current workflow or priorities of your organisation
• provides authentic engagement with your organisation in the form of student mentorship

You can decide how many teams you want to engage. The sky’s the limit! However, we require a minimum of two teams per partner to consider your involvement in the program. You can also define the multidisciplinary nature of the science teams, choosing the specific science disciplines represented in your teams. See page 7 for the list of disciplines. A designated mentor from your organisation will meet with each team on a weekly basis (one-hour via video conference).

The mentor is a subject matter expert for the project brief who will provide guidance for the teams and offer feedback on their performance at the conclusion of the engagement. Depending on the number of teams you have, you may wish to have more than one mentor involved in the program.

When will the project take place?
The program can be offered over any standard UNSW term, over a 10-week period. See page 19 for specific 2022 dates.

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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mid February – Mid May</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>June – Late August</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Mid-September – Early December</td>
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How do I get involved?
The first step is to complete an EOI form. We will contact you to discuss your project needs and a timeframe that best suits your organisation and our students. We can help you design a thorough brief and choose the disciplines of the students that best suit your project. Next, we advertise for the brightest students that match your brief. From the students selected, we put together teams that will deliver the best outcome for your project and enrol them in the program.
If you would like to engage our students for a Work Integrated Learning (WIL) experience, we ask our partners to sign a WIL agreement. This document has been well received by our host organisations in the past, as it clarifies responsibilities moving forward.

Information for our Partners

Insurance

If the student is formally enrolled in a WIL program, the student is covered comprehensively against accident or injury under the University's student insurance policy. The University maintains Public Liability and Professional Indemnity insurance that covers any liability of the University and the student in relation to the placement. The host organisation is expected to also maintain appropriate Public Liability insurance. Further information on UNSW's insurance policy can be found here: Personal Accident Insurance and Public Liability Insurance.

Working From Home

Students may undertake virtual or remote work placements if appropriate. If you offer a virtual/remote placement, the following parameters must be followed. These ensure that UNSW Science students are fully covered by UNSW Insurance.

- Students will complete a workplace safety assessment prior to receiving approval to work at home
- Students will 'lock in' and 'lock out' to maintain a real time record of their work hours
- Students will only work between 8am to 6pm on workdays, unless alternative hours are negotiated with UNSW prior to the placement
- Students will report any incidents of accident or injury within one business day

UNSW will provide online resources for students so they can meet the above requirements for their work placement. The host is not expected to provide these additional resources.

Please note that these special working from home parameters only apply to the Science Work Placement program where students are working directly for a partner organisation in a remote capacity. They do not apply to the Science Industry Project program.

Intellectual Property

Unless a student is employed by your organisation, ownership of any IP created by the student during the placement is retained by the student. You may request that the student agree to assign or licence their IP to your Organisation and this can be included in the recruitment process for your internship opportunities.

Risk Assessment

Host organisations must have a commitment to safe work practices and comply with the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. As part of the work placement program student onboarding process, each student will undertake a short Risk Assessment Activity. This student-led activity is required as part of Fair Work Act and TEOSSA, compliance requirements for WIL placements. As part of their first day activities, students will come prepared with the partially completed risk assessment activity to discuss and finalise with their workplace supervisor. The supervisor will be required to confirm their contribution and agreement to the risk assessment activity via email. Further details will be provided to supervisors upon confirmation of a work placement.

Core Terms

Work Integrated Learning

1. Compliance with the Fair Work Act and other laws

This Agreement is intended to create a project-based vocational placement ("project") under the Fair Work Act. UNSW must ensure that the student's project placement is a requirement of the student's course or program. UNSW will not remunerate the student for undertaking the project. The Organisation may remunerate the student. If an employment relationship is created (as a consequence of the Organisation remunerating the student or for any other reason) the Organisation must comply with all relevant requirements of the Fair Work Act. Each party must comply with all applicable laws relating to project.

2. Specific Requirements

The Organisation must comply with the specific requirements of the project as set out in the Schedule including as to the hours worked by the student, student supervision and the learning outcomes of the project.

3. UNSW's Responsibilities

UNSW must provide the student with a preparatory learning module. UNSW will make periodic contact with the student either on-site or electronically during the project.

4. Supervision Responsibilities

This Clause applies to the extent that a student is undertaking part of the project under the direction, or at the workplace, of the Organisation. The Organisation must ensure that the student is appropriately supervised. The Organisation must ensure that staff supervising the student are appropriately qualified and experienced and that the tasks and responsibilities assigned are appropriate to the student's skills and experience. The Organisation must ensure that during the project UNSW is able on request to inspect the workplace and meet with the student and any supervisor as it reasonably requires.

5. Orientation and Induction

This Clause applies to the extent that a student is undertaking part of the project under the direction, or at the workplace, of the Organisation. The Organisation must provide appropriate orientation and induction, including expected workplace behaviour, applicable policies and health and safety requirements. The Organisation is responsible for providing a safe and appropriate workplace for the student, which is free from bullying, discrimination and harassment.

6. Insurance and Limitation of Liability

UNSW and the Organisation must each hold public liability insurance and personal accident insurance with a level of cover for a single accident, of $20 million. If the student is employed by the Organisation, the Organisation must hold workers' compensation insurance.

7. Serious Incidents and Conduct Issues

The Organisation must immediately inform UNSW if a serious complaint is made about the student's conduct or if the student is involved in a serious incident while under its direction or attending its workplace. A serious incident is any event or conduct that could seriously impact the physical or psychological wellbeing or safety of the student or any other person. By way of example, bullying and sexual harassment are considered serious incidents. Within a reasonable time after any serious incident or complaint is notified to UNSW, the Organisation must disclose in writing to UNSW any action taken by the Organisation in response.

8. Intellectual Property (IP)

The Organisation agrees that the student can use any IP owned by or licensed to the Organisation necessary to undertake the project for educational purposes related to the project. Such use is without charge. Unless a student is employed by the Organisation, ownership of any IP created by the student during the project is retained by the student. The Organisation may request that the student agree to assign or licence their IP to the Organisation and UNSW must communicate any request to the Student.

9. Confidentiality and Privacy

UNSW and the Organisation agree to keep each other's confidential information confidential and to use such information only for the purpose of giving effect to this agreement. The Organisation may request that the student sign a confidentiality agreement and UNSW must communicate any request to the student. Each of the Organisation and UNSW will ensure that its collection, storage, use and disclosure of personal information received under this agreement complies with all applicable privacy laws.

10. General

[A] This agreement does not give rise to a relationship of employment, partnership, agency or any other fiduciary relationship between the parties.
[B] This agreement is governed by the laws of New South Wales.
[C] If any provision of this agreement is or becomes void, voidable or unenforceable, the remaining provisions of this agreement will continue to be of full force and effect.
[D] References to "this agreement" mean a reference to clauses 1 to 10 and the Schedule, which together contain the entire agreement between the parties.
[E] The parties will use their best endeavours to resolve in a confidential manner any dispute which may arise under or relating to this agreement within 30 calendar days of it arising.
Get in touch

If you would like to express interest in a WIL partnership, please complete this EOI form:

Express your interest

Contact us if you have any further questions

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Daria Keys
Manager, Partner Engagement
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UNSW operates on a trimester with 3 standard 10-week terms and a shorter summer term. This academic calendar enables students to build their work experience into their degree in any term, so partners have access to UNSW students all year round.

While work placements usually take place during the official teaching period in each term, they may extend into examination or break periods, if this arrangement is suitable for the intern and the host.

Please note that students may have other study commitments that may impact on their availability.

Summer Term

4 Jan – 7 Jan

Teaching Period
4 Jan – 7 Feb
Placement start dates accepted from mid-December 2021

Exam Period
5 – 7 Feb

Break
8 Feb – 13 Feb

Term 1

14 Feb – 12 May

Teaching Period
14 Feb – 22 April

Study Period
23 Apr – 28 Apr

Exam Period
29 Apr – 12 May

Break
13 May – 29 May

Term 2

30 May – 25 Aug

Teaching Period
30 May – 5 Aug

Study Period
6 Aug – 11 Aug

Exam Period
12 Aug – 25 Aug

Break
26 Aug – 11 Sep

Term 3

12 Sep – 8 Dec

Teaching Period
12 Sep – 18 Nov

Study Period
19 Nov – 24 Nov

Exam Period
25 Nov – 8 Dec