Placement program
GUIDE FOR INDUSTRY PARTNERS
Students with advanced skills and capabilities are looking to further their specialist knowledge and experience.

UQ’s Master of Data Science program is the most comprehensive in Australia. Combining high-level analytical and technical skills, our students study advanced topics from computing, statistics and mathematics with electives from business, finance, health and science.

**How does the program work?**

The capstone project takes place in the student’s final year of their Masters study. We have students due to commence in Semester 1 (February-June) and Semester 2 (August-October).

The project will span two consecutive semesters. In the first semester of the project, students spend approximately one day per week on the project developing a proposal and performing an initial analysis of the problem.

In the second semester of the project, the students are expected to commit around three days per week to execute a solution and write a report for assessment.

As a program partner, you are offered the following:

- Involvement in the student selection process
- An opportunity to utilise a UQ postgrad student on real and immediate issues facing your company
- An opportunity to identify student data scientists to build your pipeline of talent
- Continual placement collaboration with an industry placement representative
- A UQ academic supervisor supporting the student throughout the placement
- Opportunity to attend student final oral assessment day

**What is the Master of Data Science capstone project?**

The University of Queensland commenced a flagship postgraduate program in 2017. The program is one of the most comprehensive data science programs in Australia, and combines high-level analytical and technical skills with industry-specific knowledge and essential professional attributes.

A core component of the program is a capstone project which involves designing and implementing a data science solution to an industry or academic problem. Students undertaking the capstone will further their specialist knowledge and technical skills through industry placements.

**How have our partners found this experience?**

“This process hasn’t been like working with students, it’s been like working with consultants. More correctly, it’s like working with a consulting firm – when you work with these students, you’re also working with their academic supervisor and all of the resources and knowledge of the data scientists at UQ.”

Innovation Manager, A CyberCX company

“We were happy with the skills of the student we have chosen as he has shown good technical skills and knowledge in machine learning. Overall, the experience was good as the work delivered by the student was very good. The student also learned a lot from this project and received some real work experience so I think it was very beneficial for all.”

Manager, Advanced Analytics – Industry Superannuation fund
**Key dates**

Our Master of Data Science placement program is offered in Semester 1 and Semester 2, and placements may be undertaken at the times outlined below:

**Timeline for placements commencing each Semester**

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<th>March-August</th>
<th>April-September</th>
<th>June-October</th>
<th>February-August</th>
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<tr>
<td>Projects submitted to UQ</td>
<td>Interviews and selection</td>
<td>Placement agreements finalised</td>
<td>Placements commence</td>
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**Planning timeline**

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<tr>
<th>Step 1 – Project Scoping (6 months out)</th>
<th>Step 2 – Applicant Interviews (5 months out)</th>
<th>Step 3 – Placement Paperwork (4 months out)</th>
<th>Step 4 – Confirmation (1 month out)</th>
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<td>Submit your project scope to UQ. Students will typically flesh out the project detail as a first step in their industry placement therefore, a high level scope is sufficient at this point.</td>
<td>Review the student applications, selecting a shortlist. The Student Employability Team can make all the interview arrangements for you if you wish, including facilities on campus at UQ if preferred.</td>
<td>Confirm successful student for project and clarify requirements around confidentiality and intellectual property.</td>
<td>Placement paperwork finalised, company invoiced, insurance and payroll arrangements finalised by UQ.</td>
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**What does it cost?**

Our standard scholarship model is outlined below:

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<th>2 semester industry placement</th>
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<td>$12,000 per student</td>
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<td>$9,000 goes directly to the student in the form of a Master of Data Science placement scholarship.</td>
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<td>$3,000 contributes to the promotion and administration of the program; engagement with the industry placement coordinator throughout the placement and the student selection process.</td>
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If you wish to engage our students on this program, please contact the EAIT Student Employability Team on +61 7 3365 8534 or industryplacements@eait.uq.edu.au

**Confidentiality:** Many of our industry partners have strict requirements around confidentiality and non-disclosure. If you have such requirements, the Student Employability Team are available to assist.