



Case Study: Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology

'MEET a Mentor' Program

The MEET a Mentor program is an exciting initiative for third and fourth year students and graduates of more than ten years in engineering and information technology, at The University of Queensland. The program aims to connect students with established alumni to motivate, encourage, empower and transform the next generation of professionals entering the industry. Since 2014, just over 200 students and 200 alumni and industry professionals have engaged with the 'MEET a mentor' program.

Participating students are linked with mentors based on their engineering or information technology discipline, shared interests and career aspirations. The program assists students with their career development and transition from University into the workforce, engaging business professionals in a mutually beneficial partnership. Benefits to students include practical experiences (internship opportunities and vacation work), overall career guidance, practical assistance with job applications and interviewing techniques, and introductions to professional contacts in industry. The program provides alumni and industry professionals with the opportunity to engage and influence the next generation of engineering and information technology professionals, share the value of their expertise, expand their networks and to give back to their alma mater.

Online applications for students and alumni/industry friends open on the 1st March annually to coincide with the beginning of semester one. Applications are reviewed and participants matched in a one to one partnership. A 'Welcome' workshop is held for all participants (mentors and mentees) in early April to outline Program expectations on both sides and provide some coaching for how to structure mentoring sessions for maximum benefit. The Mentoring period runs from April to September annually. Mentors and mentees connect for at least four one-on-one mentor sessions (in-person/phone/Skype/email). Each mentoring session lasts for approximately one hour, and the mentoring relationship is maintained for at least a six-month period.

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Updated: 29/11/2016

