

Defence Industry
Internship Program

**2019/2020 year
in review**



2019/2020 IN REVIEW

QTAC has been involved with the Defence Industry Internship Program for a second year, following the formation of this collaboration in 2018/2019. Through this partnership, we have seen the program grow from 30 placements in our first year to 70 student placements at 38 host SMEs in 2019/20.



SUCCESS

In 2019/2020, with 70 students completing internships at SMEs around the country, QTAC appointed additional staff to assist with the smooth running of the program. This is testament not only to the rapid growth of the program, but QTAC's commitment to ensuring a seamless experience for both students and SMEs.

Our team of program coordinators were dedicated to specific regions and facilitated two site visits with each of our SMEs, once at the start of the internship and again towards the end of the internship. These visits provided a great opportunity to gather testimonials, offer mentoring and support if required and ensure each internship progressed to plan. Our objective for the future is to grow our SME portfolio to include businesses in the Northern Territory and increase our Western Australian and Tasmanian portfolios.

OUR SMEs HAVE TOLD US

The program has been an excellent opportunity for SMEs to supplement their existing staffing to complete projects and allows employers to offer roles to individuals who they have already been able to trial and review throughout the internship program, reducing risk when making employment decisions. The additional funding provided for the duration of the program is particularly helpful to smaller companies and start-ups as it affords them the opportunity to have an increased team without increased wage cost. SMEs have reported the ability to complete projects which they would not have otherwise had resource or ability to participate in thanks to their involvement in the DIIP.

OUR STUDENTS HAVE TOLD US

The program affords them the opportunity to gain real-world experience whilst earning an income with the added benefit of meeting the course requirements of their university degree with the completion of the necessary practical hours. Not only does the opportunity make them more attractive to future employers, 55% of this year's interns either went on to be employed by their host SME, or are in discussions to return at the completion of their degree. Students are able to develop industry relationships and build their network as well as demonstrating their skills, knowledge and capabilities to industry networks and prospective employers. Jobs in the Defence industry provide individuals the opportunity to work with cutting edge technology in companies that contribute towards the future of our country for the benefit of all Australians.

“The Defence Industry Internship Program is ideal for a Small Defence Business like Clearbox Systems. We are able to trust in the high quality candidates that the program provides which saves us time and effort in recruiting. The proof is in the fact that we have gladly offered ongoing employment to several of the interns at the conclusion of the program.”

**Jeremy Hallett, Executive Director,
Clearbox Systems**

“The DIIP allowed me to gain real-world experience working on Defence projects. It was my first engineering role and I improved many valuable skills needed in an engineering workplace, including engineering design, teamwork and communication skills. The support I received from QTAC and OPEC was great. It's a great Defence initiative which gives engineering students valuable experience in the industry.”

Richard Lloyd, OPEC

“The DIIP internship gave me the opportunity to work alongside a team of engineers in the Defence industry, working with some highly sophisticated and cutting edge technology. Being tasked with design work from day one, I was able to put the theoretical knowledge from my university coursework to practical use. It was only when I had designed something with the intention of it being machined and fabricated by someone that I paid very close attention to its manufacturability and serviceability - something which is quite hard to achieve in a lecture theatre. Having my designs approved and put into the production line at the end of my internship also gave me an incredible sense of accomplishment.”

Thej Abeykoon, Chemring



“Tom Angus' great work has magnified Airspeed's ability to describe our proposed mission system package for the new Special Forces helicopters to prospective clients, and puts us in good stead to move ahead in the Land 2097 Phase 4 project. The Defence Industry Internship Program team were easy to work with did an excellent job of aligning Tom's interests and skillset with Airspeed's needs.”

**Scott Germein, Technical
Compliance Manager, Airspeed**



“The DIIP Program allowed me to work alongside professional engineers contributing to an electronic warfare surveillance platform to be housed on an aircraft. The skills and experiences I've gained will support me through the rest of my studies and has provided invaluable insight into engineering within the defence industry. I will be strongly recommending DIIP to my peers and friends.”

Max Pihema - Ultra Electronics



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“The DIIP Program was fantastic in that the company I was placed into allowed me to apply some of the soft skills I had learnt at university and also taught me what it was like to work in the real world in a team of highly trained engineers. I had a fantastic three months and would highly recommend the program to any aspiring engineers as the experiences gained in industry are not taught at university and invaluable in the ‘real world’.”

Matthew Berry, Advanced Composite Structures

“I had a great time being part of the DIIP program. The application process was simple and easy to understand, helping to align my internship with areas that would support my growth. My work plan enabled me to have a better understanding of the purpose of my placement, this along with occasional visits from DIIP ensured I was progressing at the right pace. My placement company was great and really welcoming, and the tasks I was assigned to work on felt relevant and challenging.”

Cameron Easton, Advanced Navigation



“This is the second year Frontline Manufacturing has participated in the DIIP. It was enormously beneficial for us in the first year and the second year has been just as rewarding. The Interns worked on critical projects for us and displayed ability and initiative. We will definitely participate again next year.”

Daniel Green, Managing Director, Frontline Manufacturing

“Currawong Engineering was very happy to be part of the internship program. Our intern fitted in to our workplace very well and was able to complete some tangible tasks to assist our engineering team. The funding for the intern position and QTAC’s assistance with the recruitment process was very much appreciated.”

**Claire Brett, Finance Manager,
Currawong Engineering**

“The DIIP internship greatly helped me in completing the necessary work placement requirement to finish my civil engineering degree. I moved from Melbourne to Sydney for the internship and really enjoyed the culture, work ethics and the way of life in a new city which I think is a valuable attribute for a professional engineer. Throughout the internship I was able to refresh my technical and professional knowledge from university and it prepared me as a graduate engineer in the civil engineering industry.”

Thushara Lakamge, CARAS



“The Defence Industry Internship Program carefully matched high quality engineering students to our company who have demonstrated an eagerness to become part of our team. The organised interactions, processes and student support provided by QTAC this opportunity maximum benefit to the student and organisation.”

Julia O’Callaghan, Director - University Engagements, Defendtex

“We couldn’t have rated the DIIP any higher; from the engagement with program administration to the outstanding quality and enthusiasm of each of the interns, we were thoroughly impressed. We were able to bring three junior engineers into our business manufacturing F-35 landing gear components, providing exposure to the production engineering, advanced technology and engineering design teams. Each of the interns were able to get hands-on experience in the design, development, test and evaluation of equipment to support our business and customers well into the future.”

Jarrod Watts, RUAG

“Having the opportunity to participate in the DIIP internship has been one of the most rewarding experiences for me as a student. The program is designed to support the students and does well at matching them with appropriate SMEs where their skills can be put to the test and improved. I had a great experience in the DIIP internship and strongly recommend other students to apply for this amazing experience.”

Bradley Park, Redarc





For more information, please visit:
W: www.diip.com.au
E: defenceinternships@qtac.com.au
T: 07 3858 1213

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