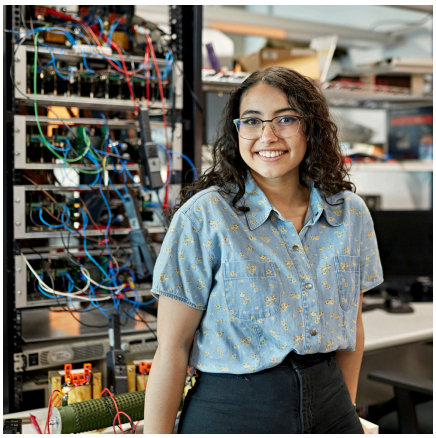
Bring innovation and fresh perspectives into your organisation via industry-partnered projects

Master of Information Technology (MIT)
Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Program



Industry-partnered Projects

QUT collaborates with industry, government and community organisations to offer industry-partnered IT projects for students undertaking a Master of Information Technology (MIT).

We invite industry partners to help equip the next generation of professionals with the skills and experience needed to thrive in the workplace. As part of their course requirements, students will work in teams of 5 on industry-partnered IT projects that create real-world impact and address operational and strategic challenges faced by organisations. Projects are offered twice annually, in February and July, which run consecutively over 2 phases (**IFN735** and **IFN736**), two semesters - 13 weeks each.

- First phase: Student teams plan, initiate and manage the early phases of the project. This will address an industry problem or realise an industry opportunity through the application of professional and research skills, disciplinary theories, tools, and techniques.
- Second phase: Student teams continue work on the same project commenced in phase 1 with the same team and industry client. The student teams complete the project, which includes building, testing, and delivering the final artefact.

At QUT, the student learner experiences developed in partnership with industry, government and community is known as **Work Integrated Learning (WIL).** WIL provides organisations the opportunity to:

Find Innovative Solutions. Approach problems from a fresh angle. By thinking creatively, students can tackle projects that may have been delayed or paused due to staffing or resource limitations, offering a new perspective on overlooked challenges.

Connect with Future Talent. Discover and engage with emerging talent to integrate into your graduate and internship programs. These students could evolve into valuable long-term assets for your organisation.

Empower the Next Generation. Help students bridge the gap between theory and real-world application. Your guidance can shape the workforce of tomorrow, influencing their development in practical workplace environments.

Enhance Your Team. Work Integrated Learning (WIL) offers mentorship and supervision opportunities for your current employees and managers, fostering leadership and development within your team.

Grow Your Network. WIL offers industry partners the opportunity to expand their professional networks by connecting with academic and field experts. This can foster potential collaboration between industry requirements and course development, creating mutual benefits for both academia and the workforce.

Unit Aim

Under the guidance of an academic supervisor and mentorship from an industry supervisor, students work in teams of five to develop and implement a customised IT solution. We have found that the best outcomes are often achieved by running the same project in parallel with at least two teams.

Unit Structure

Students will form multidisciplinary teams to apply the skills they've developed throughout their previous units, degrees, and work experiences to deliver a sophisticated IT system, solution, or prototype as defined by the industry partner.

We suggest that you create a project brief centered on one of the following primary discipline areas, aligning it with your business needs:

- Software development
- Web development
- Business analysis / bpm
- Information management
- Network / security
- Data science / machine learning
- AI applications
- Interaction design / usability study / user experience.

The project brief should clearly outline the overall goal of the engagement, including the project's objectives, a detailed scope of work, and the desired outcomes.

It should also specify the skills required by students to successfully achieve project goals. Throughout the unit, student teams will work with real data sets, artifacts, and/or project briefs provided by the industry partner to professionally analyse, identify, scope, and define the operational challenges impacting the business.

Depending on the project's complexity, the first four weeks will serve as the establishment phase, focused on research, framing, and design. The student team will present their proposal and an initial iteration of the solution to the industry partner towards the end of this phase.

The second half of the semester will be dedicated to developing, testing, and delivering the solution prototype, including providing full specifications and the final handover.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the unit, students are expected to have acquired the necessary knowledge and skills to:

- Integrate advanced specialist disciplinary knowledge and skills in the context of an industry project.
- Critically evaluate a client brief and use innovative methods, advanced problem-solving, analysis, and design skills to deliver a solution for the client.
- Demonstrate effective project management skills, including project planning, execution, and closure.
- Document, analyse and summarise their findings to both technical and non-technical stakeholders in a clear and reproducible manner.
- Review their performance against identified measures of success.

QUT Academic Supervisor

An academic supervisor will collaborate with organisations to develop a clear project brief for the engagement. It is recommended that the partner organisation identify at least one relevant dataset or artifact that can be used to create a distinct project to be completed by the student team during the semester.

The academic supervisor is responsible for selecting and approving the students who will participate in the project. They will also provide ongoing support, guidance, and advice to students throughout the project, as well as manage the assessments.

By the end of the unit, each team is expected to deliver a 'prototype' or 'proof of concept' that can contribute to enhancing business operations.

Data Sets and Data Management

Industry partners are responsible for extracting and, where necessary, de-identifying any sensitive information within data from their internal systems.

They must also ensure that all relevant data quality standards are met before providing QUT with the final data set for this engagement.

Industry Supervisor

Industry partners are required to assign a supervisor to mentor each student team throughout the engagement. During the initial meeting, we encourage industry partners to set clear rules of engagement with the student team, covering communication methods, frequency, response times, and other expectations to ensure accountability.

For optimal outcomes, we recommend that the industry supervisor engage with the student team on a weekly basis throughout the teaching periods. The frequency of engagement may vary depending on the complexity and requirements of each project stage.

Industry supervisors will be invited to attend a presentation at the end of the semester, where the student team will present their solution for assessment to the partner organisation, their classmates, and the academic supervisor.

Each student team will have a designate team leader, who will be responsible for maintaining communication with the assigned industry supervisor via email between meetings.

During the engagement, industry supervisors will be asked to complete a Supervisor's Evaluation Feedback Form, which will contribute to the final assessment of the student team.

WIL Agreements

WIL Agreements are formal documents that ensure that all roles, responsibilities, learning expectations, and assessment requirements are articulated and agreed upon. They protect the interests of all parties by ensuring that considerations around confidentiality and intellectual property are understood and abided by.

The Faculty of Science WIL team is responsible for issuing the QUT Project Partner Agreement/Schedule and QUT Student Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Agreement (SCIP) to industry partners and students.

Partner in our WIL Programs

Please complete the online [Project Registration Form] to submit your proposal.

Once received, our teaching team will review the submission to ensure the project scope and technical requirements align with our students' skill sets and meet curriculum standards.

If further clarification is needed, we'll arrange a time to discuss the brief before issuing the QUT Project Partner Agreement and Project Schedule for execution.

It's important that the Project Partner Agreement is signed and the Project Schedule acknowledged prior to the commencement of the project.

More Opportunities to Engage

The Faculty of Science offers specialised programs in information technology, mathematics, and science, tailored to meet the growing industry demand for data-driven and technological solutions. Our undergraduate, postgraduate, and online programs are designed to equip students with the essential skills and knowledge needed to excel in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. By partnering with industry leaders, we provide students with invaluable opportunities for placements and project work, fostering real-world experience and professional growth. Industry partners benefit from access to a talented pipeline of future professionals, fresh perspectives on current challenges, and the opportunity to shape the next generation of experts.

We invite industry partners to reach out to discuss the many opportunities to engage with our students and join us in cultivating the innovators of tomorrow.

Contact the Science WIL team

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