Informational Interview Part A

- Goals of my informational interview

As a student in my last year studying a double degree of electrical and electronics engineering and computer science, my overall career goal has always been to work in the space industry and contribute to the development of innovative technology in the field of avionics. I am specifically interested in designing and implementing advanced electronic systems for space applications such as launch vehicles and satellites. In conducting my informational interview at Gilmour Space Technologies, I aim to learn more about the specific challenges and opportunities involved in working in the space industry as an avionics or software engineer. I aim to gain insights into the technical requirements involved with space projects and learn about best practices and standards within the aerospace industry. I am also interested in learning about the culture and work environment of a company rooted in the space industry as well as any tips or advice for pursuing a career in this field. I would like to understand more clearly what the daily duties of an engineer in this industry look like so I can better prepare myself for my future career.

- Finding my interviewees

Who to Interview	Occupation and Company	How to Contact Them	Record of Contact Attempts	Justification
Mr. Alex Forward	Lead Avionics Engineer	In Person	I approached Alex on the 21st of March in person regarding this interview, but he suggested I speak to Thomas Ireland who would have better advice moving from university to industry.	Alex would provide an amazing perspective on the space industry from an avionics perspective. Alex is in a leadership position and would have a good understanding of the company structure and employees.
Mr. Thomas Ireland	Software Engineer II	In Person	I approached Thomas on the 27th of March in person regarding this interview and he agreed. We are set to conduct the interview sometime in the next two weeks.	Thomas would provide a highly valuable perspective since he was in the same position as me around six years ago. He would be able to provide advice for someone like me trying to break into the industry after graduating.

Jessy Barber – s5138877

- Question Planning

Topic	Question	Follow-Up Questions
Career Path	Thomas you were a previous student at Griffith University, what are some of the most important lessons you learnt as an engineering student that you still use today?	How was the move from full time student to full time work in terms of workload and work complexity? Do you think your engineering degree sufficiently prepared you for a job in this industry?
Challenges / Jobs	What are some of the biggest technical challenges you've encountered when designing software for a launch vehicle and how did you overcome them?	What are the biggest differences in writing software for aerospace industry as opposed to other industries? How do you organize your workload and schedule to handle challenging projects?
Skills	What do you think are the most important skills and traits to have in this field?	What are some ways that I can develop these skills? Are there specific personality types that perform better in this industry?
Entry Level Requirements	What qualities, skills and projects do you look for when hiring entry graduate engineers?	Why are these qualities and skills useful in the workplace?
Leadership / Teamwork	How do you collaborate with other engineers on projects and what are some key skills for effective teamwork in this field?	Are you responsible for others in a leadership context? If so, what is involved in this dynamic? Who do you seek for advice and guidance?
Career Path	What kind of career progression opportunities are available for engineers in this company / industry?	What are the skills or experiences that are necessary to advance? Are there performance reviews that assess your progress within the team?

Future of Industry	How do you think the space industry in Australia will change over the next decade?	What impact do you think this will have on the Australian economy? What's next for Gilmour after successfully developing launch vehicles and satellites?
Retrospective	If you could go back and do anything differently while in university or your career, what would it be?	If you had to choose one piece of advice for ensuring my success in my last trimester of university and success in this industry, what would it be?
Schedule	What do your daily duties look like and how do you organize and plan these?	Do you have any time management tips for balancing your personal and work life?
Likes / Dislikes	What do you enjoy the most about your job?	What do you enjoy the least about your job? What is the most challenging aspect of your job and how would you change that?