Industry Project Host Information

Host a Master of Applied Computing Student

COMP 693 Industry Project is the Master of Applied Computing capstone course. Students undertake an applied computing project with an external industry host, demonstrating the use of professional practices and industry standard approaches.

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Introduction

The Master of Applied Computing is a three-semester programme that helps people transition into the tech sector, it focuses on Software Development and allied roles.

COMP 693 Industry Project is the capstone course. Students undertake an applied computing project with an external industry host, demonstrating the use of professional practices and industry standard approaches. This allows students to put into practice the skills they have learnt through the programme and to help ensure they are work ready at graduation.

Students are required to confirm a placement with an industry host either by:

- Arranging their own placement within their own workplace or using their own network of connections.
- Being connected with a host with the assistance of Lincoln University. Students apply for a placement through a placement jobs board.

What skills do the students have?

Students have taken core courses in software development (Python, HTML, CSS, and relational databases) where they have developed full stack web applications. Students will also have taken elective courses (a selection from business analysis, user experience, programming, neural networks and GIS) which align with their post study career interests.

Students usually join this conversion programme from other fields, motivated to gain entry to the IT profession. It is important to note, however, that most of these students do not have an undergraduate degree in computing and their software development experience is typically limited to full stack web applications built using Python and Flask, not all students are looking to follow a technical career.

Students in the programme have had previous study and (often) work experience, typically in a non-tech field, so you can be assured that the students bring with them transferable skills from a wide range of backgrounds. They are interested in a range of career opportunities in tech, including, but not limited to, user experience, GIS analysis and development, web app development and business analysis.

What costs are involved?

Student time during the Industry Project does not have to be remunerated and no payment to the university of any kind is required. Indirect costs incurred involve staff time for mentoring and the provision of space and other resources.

What makes a suitable Project?

The Industry Project involves 300 work hours from the student. These are spread over the semester, 25 hours per week over 12 teaching weeks. Students also complete additional 100 hours of Project assessment tasks.

We are seeking a project – a clearly defined piece of work with a clear start and end objective – rather than 'work experience' of everyday business-as-usual work. We recommend project activities are not on a 'critical path' for a business.

Projects that often work well are:

- Exploratory/proof of concept development
- Product evaluation/assessment
- Research and development
- Analysis projects
- In-house systems development

The Master of Applied Computing Industry Project provides valuable experience on the ground for newcomers to the industry, including exposure to project management, development practices and a network of tech contacts.

Students who complete a project of this nature are quicker to acclimatise into the industry environment as employees and bring a wealth of other experience and knowledge. It's a win-win.

What is required from a host?

Enthusiasm to give back to the industry and help someone make the transition into a tech career!

We ask Industry Hosts to provide a mentor who can support the student through their project with the technical expertise and maturity to help the student succeed.

Hosts are expected provide a (physical or virtual) space for the student to work and access to the resources they will need to complete the project. The hosts also provide feedback on the student on two occasions during the semester.

What are the timeframes?

Students can undertake their Industry Project in Semester One (starting late February) in Semester Two (starting July).

We typically call for placement projects in March/April and October for the following semester.

What's next?

- If you have a student already that you would like to host
- If you are interested in being matched with a student to host
- Or if you would like more information

Please get in touch with the Master of Applied Computing team at mac.industryproject@lincoln.ac.nz

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