

Meeting Notes from Tautoko Network Meeting

March 2023

PACE Internships

Many thanks to Sasha Seatter, the University of Canterbury's Internship Coordinator, who joined this month's Tautoko session to share information about the university's PACE (Professional & Community Engagement) programme.

Some Background

The PACE Internship programme is open to 2nd, 3rd-year and post-graduate students, from across all of the university's schools and departments.

The programme enables the students to grow both professionally and personally as they put their skills and knowledge to use in a real-world setting.

The scope of the work undertaken is very broad and is designed to meet the host organisation needs and student's interest and area of study.

There are 3 intakes over the year:

- February – 15-week period running February to June. Level 2 students need to complete 70 hours work, Level 3 or post graduate students 140 hours
- July – 15-week period running July to October. Level 2 students need to complete 70 hours work, Level 3 or post graduate students 140 hours
- November – For Level 2 students need to complete 70 hours work completed over 5 weeks November to December. Level 3 or post graduate students 140 hours completed over 10 weeks November to February
- This equates roughly to 1 or 2 days a week – 5 – 10 hours

What's in it for the students?

Undertaking a PACE internship enables the students to:

- Put the learning they have acquired through their degree into use in a real world setting
- earn academic course credits
- Grow their network of potential employers which may lead to future work opportunities
- Develop their personal and professional skills
- Develop their 'soft skills'
- Helps them to determine what type of role they may look for in the future
- Really enjoy having a piece of work that has a purpose, makes a difference and has impact

Who can engage the students?

- Programme hosts come from local, national and international businesses along with community and voluntary organisations

What's in it for the business or organisation? Why host?

Having a PACE student enables the business or organisation to:

- Get a job done that they may not have the time, financial resources or knowledge base to achieve without some additional help
- Get support for, as examples, a current project or one on your wish-list or a piece of research that will support the business or organisations future work
- Learn from the student's knowledge and skills enabling the organisation's staff to grow professionally

What type of projects have students been involved in?

The range of projects the students can be involved in is very broad, here's just a few examples:

- Research topics including social and political research
- Marketing
- Communications, media and social media
- Policy reviews and updates
- Creative arts
- Computer science
- Combination projects that bring different aspects of a business or organisations work

What organisations need to consider when contemplating having a PACE intern

- Students want meaningful, impactful projects
- There is a reasonable lead-in time for projects to be considered:
 - February intake – November
 - July intake – April
 - November intake – September
- Your project needs to have a clear desired outcome and/or vision
- Is your project tightly time-bound? As there are often more projects than students it may take more than one intake to make the 'right fit' match for your project. When would be the ideal time for your organisation to have a student involved?
- Will the piece of work be completed in person, online or hybrid?
- You need to be able to provide:
 - A dedicated individual supervisor for the student who will meet with them regularly throughout their involvement
 - Potentially a physical space to work from
 - An induction to your organisation, including a health and safety induction

Other useful information

- The Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) team do a lot of background work with the students interested in the programme to ensure the best fit for them and the organisation
- Careful consideration is put into the matching process
- The WIL team also support partner organisations so that the interns can be well supported to undertake their piece of work