



ACS Foundation
Advancing ICT through Education and Research

ACDICT ALTA Forum
8th May 2014
John Ridge AM

What is the advantage for Universities to work closer with Industry ?

What are the attributes of graduates that Industry is looking for ?

And remember - generally between 94 – 97% of ICT undergraduates go into industry when they graduate – only 3 – 6% go straight onto post graduate studies.



Universities are very research focused and want to have stronger ties with industry to partner and support their research ?

It has to be a “two way” street – both parties have to gain what they are looking for from the relationship.

Universities are looking to provide good pathways for their graduates into industry and those strong partnerships can facilitate that.

Universities are looking for industry speakers and guest lecturers to give their students insights into the industry, practices and work places.



Desirable Skills

Skills that Industry Positively regards -

1. Communication Skills
2. Problem Solving Skills
3. Innovation Skills
4. Team-working Skills



Desirable Skills

Skills that Industry Positively Regards -

1. Communication Skills
2. Problem Solving Skills
3. Innovation Skills
4. Team-working Skills

Additionally, they are looking for students with an aptitude for technology, and in some cases (for some roles) some (limited) technical skills.



Desirable Skills Set

According to Bloom's taxonomy of thinking skills –

1. Recall
2. Comprehension
3. Application
4. Analysis
5. Evaluation / making judgements
6. Creativity / design





WHY ?

HOW ??



Skills that Researchers need -

1. Communication skills
2. Problem Solving skills
3. Innovation skills
4. Team-working skills



And remember - generally between 94 – 97% of ICT undergraduates go into industry when they graduate – only 3 – 6% go straight onto post graduate studies.



Moving Forward

Should be more WIL / Professional Practice

Strong industry future – but we need to build a stronger domestic capability



Questions ??

ACS Foundation Big Day In

ACS Foundation BiG Day In

Student Career event – 3rd year

220 - 2012, >1,700 - 2013, 4 – 5,000 - 2014

80 % secondary school students

40% year 12, 40 % year 11, 20% rest

>40% female students

Very positive reaction – started at UTS, 2014 >1,000 students

2014 – 10 events

UTS, Bathurst, Perth, Wollongong, RMIT, Western Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Geelong, Newcastle

ACS Foundation BiG Day In

2014 – 10 events

UTS (1000), Bathurst (120), Perth (400), Wollongong (300), RMIT (500), Western Sydney (300), Brisbane (200), Adelaide (150), Geelong (200), Newcastle (300)



BIG DAY IN

B.O.S.S. Building Opportunities for Successful Students

Proudly Supported By:



BiG Day In @ UTS



Questions ??

Contact –

john.ridge@acsfoundation.com.au



What is the ACS Foundation

Established August 2001

Raised more than \$50 million

Awarded more than 5,000 scholarships

Currently raising more than \$7.50 million pa

Currently awarding more than 400 scholarships
pa

All with just three full time staff !!!

ACS Foundation Strengths

A cooperative not competitive relationship with Universities

Vast positive industry contacts

Always need more students for our scholarships

Strong Track Record to Date

Not an exclusive solution



ACS Foundation Strategies

Not an exclusive solution

Improve Student learning experience

relevant industry experience – a two way street
contextual relevancy of subjects
better “expectation management” for career
prospects and pathways

Better outcomes will result in more enrolments

Want to be “used” by both industry and universities

WHAT DO WE DO?

Improve the Learning and Teaching Experience of ICT students

Help students transition from their studies into the industry

Provide Support for Research Projects

Market Careers in ICT to secondary school students

WHY DO WE DO IT?

To Increase the number of Students Applying for ICT courses and Considering the ICT Industry for their career

To Improve the Industry / University Experience and Interaction

HOW DO WE DO IT?

By providing industry funded scholarships for students to gain relevant industry experience

Hold Industry lunches, student career events to raise awareness

Provide ICT Career Collateral to careers advisors and schools

HOW WELL DO WE DO IT?

Very well !!! 😊

What is the ACS Foundation

We are a Charity, a Not for Profit, and a Designated Gift Recipient

A separate legal and governance entity from the ACS.

But have worked closely and co-operatively with them

What is the ACS Foundation

Like the ICT industry – the ACS Foundation is an enabler





ACS Foundation
Advancing ICT through Education and Research

ACDICT ALTA Forum
8th May 2014
John Ridge AM