



ACS Foundation
Advancing ICT through Education and Research

ACDICT ALTA Forum
5th April 2013
John Ridge AM

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

Established August 2001

Raised more than \$45 million

Awarded more than 4,500 scholarships

Currently raising more than \$7.50 million pa

Currently awarding more than 360 scholarships
pa

All with just three full time staff !!!

What is the ACS Foundation

Like the ICT industry – the ACS Foundation is an enabler



Stakeholder Benefits of the ACS Foundation

Students

Industry

Universities / academics

Economy – increase the number and quality of ICT graduates

Some of our Initiatives

Scholarships – WIL and Grow

Research – scholarships and funding

ICT Careers collateral - careers wheel,
careers map, videos, case studies, posters
etc

Some More of our Initiatives

Industry School Career Visits -

Big Day In – student career conferences – designed by students for students – 4/5 this year

National ICT Careers Week (NICTW)

- 80 – 150 participating organisations

- 150 – 250 events

Even More of our Initiatives

English as a Second Language courses -

Job Interview Techniques seminars – Sydney, Perth,
QLD

AAGE careers events

Secondary School careers events

And this year we are sponsoring a F1 team !!!

The Reasons for WIL

The Challenge to Keep Courses Up to Date – A colleague recently had reason to review the course he did at a Canberra university 30 years ago to find the subjects and content were the same as when he did the course.

Attrition of Students enrolled in ICT courses (30 – 40%) – ACDICT research – survey of students and reasons they are leaving – subjects, content, and the way it is taught - what is going to change ? And when ??

If these issues are not addressed then the more students that enrol in ICT courses will result in a larger number leaving those courses.



More Reasons for WIL

What better way to develop stronger relationships with industry that may lead to other things – such as post graduate enrolments and Research ?



Some Issues as I see them

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

What are the attributes of graduates that Industry are keen for them to have ?

What are the ideal skills attributes for researcher to have ?

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



Common Skills Set

Skills that Industry Positively Regards -

Communication
Problem Solving
Innovation
Team-working

According to Bloom's taxonomy of thinking skills –

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



ACS Foundation Strategies / Strengths

A cooperative not competitive relationship with Universities

Not looking to “interpose” between industry and University – but build on relationships

Vast industry contacts

Always need more students for scholarships 

Strong Track Record to Date

Not an exclusive solution

ACS Foundation Strategies / Strengths

Not an exclusive solution

Improve Student learning experience

relevant industry experience – a two way street

contextual relevancy of subjects

better “expectation management” for career

Better outcomes will result in more enrolments

Want to be “used” by both industry and universities

Moving Forward

Should be more WIL / Professional Practice

Integrated into curriculum

Understand the Cost for Industry of undertaking WIL

Not “outsource” more of the effort / assessment to Industry

Strong industry future – IBIS World report – but need a stronger domestic capability

Questions ??

Contact –

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