

Graduate Work Placement at IBM

Federation University Australia (FUA) Information Technology graduates are now able to study a new Graduate Certificate while working with companies organised through the **ATMC Graduate Work Placement initiative.**

“ATMC has provided me with various opportunities to develop skills and become part of a positive recruitment process.”

Krati Singh



Work Placement

A High Five ATMC Graduates win innovative career positions with IBM

These days, when two energetic entities meet and greet they often express this with a 'high five'. Two respected institutions, both boasting international connections, have enthusiastically met in a business and career sense to create an innovative collaboration with many benefits.

The Australian Technical and Management College (ATMC) a leading IT higher education institution, based in Melbourne and the preeminent global technology company with a major presence on the Federation University's Technology Park, IBM Australia Limited, have recently combined to recruit and deploy five high achieving international IT graduates.

This new initiative will involve enrolling recent graduates into a Graduate program which will deliver a beneficial 'package' over twenty four months. This includes:

- A Graduate Certificate from FedUni (gaining Australian Computer Society ACS professional year accreditation) and an associated ACS Foundation scholarship;
- An internship-based on appropriate work with IBM including the full payment of University fees; and
- High quality Professional Development which will equip participants for ongoing IT careers in many contexts both within Australia and Internationally.

DR MANISH MALHOTRA

Dr Manish Malhotra, the Managing Director and CEO of ATMC said that he is delighted with this initiative which is a further step in ATMC's established ethos of holistically caring for its international students.

Dr Malhotra is well placed to foster this IBM placement having presided over ATMC's development in a just a hand-full of years from a small Geelong based operation to a thriving College with around 1000 students at five campuses in Melbourne (3), Geelong and Colombo in Sri Lanka. Importantly, ATMC is affiliated with the Federation University and Charles Darwin University as well as an established presence overseas in the many countries from which it draws its students.

At a recent briefing, especially aimed at the successful graduates who will relocate to FedUni's Mount Helen campus in Ballarat to pursue the program, participants were provided with helpful information from:

Mal Vallance

Mal Vallance, the Director of FedUni's Technology Park outlined the Park's growth from its beginning with IBM as the foundation tenant some two decades ago (with around 40 data processing staff) to the present diverse and productive operation that has resulted in some 1500 jobs.

Steve Davies

Steve Davies, IBM Australia's Ballarat Region Lead for Global Business Services who manages a complex level of IT services located at the Technology Park. Participants in the new program will benefit by being able to transit through a number of diverse IBM Client Service offerings gaining invaluable experience for their ongoing careers.

Services range from Global Process Services (e.g. the IT Help-desk) through to Global Technology Services (e.g. IT Technical Support increasingly including security issues) to a full range of Global Business Services involving Consulting and Project Management with clients including Government Agencies and major players in the private sector such as Qantas.

Dr Charlynn Miller

Dr Charlynn Miller, who is the Associate Dean of International Partnerships with FedUni's School of Science, Information Technology and Engineering (SITE). Dr Miller spoke of this new SITE Graduate Certificate which imbeds the ACS's professional development requirements in a cost-effective scholarship format with two 'face to face' programs (involving IT Workplace Culture—oral and written communication & relationships) and Professional Environments & IT (delivered on-line) together with the important fourth element - the internship with IBM Australia.

Hetty Swanson

Hetty Swanson who tirelessly directs student services for ATMC has observed that this initiative is a most rewarding collaborative arrangement which allows graduates to chart a career pathway, rich in IT software and related services which both draws on their developed IT and personal skills and is located in a 'mentoring organisation' second to none.

Hetty remains confident that through this 'nested' IBM internship, the FedUni Graduate Certificate and the ACS Scholarship arrangement; suitably equipped graduates will be prepared for a diverse and beneficial career in IT and related technologies which will well serve their generation in many international locations.



Finally, an orientation tour of IBM's state-of-art facilities in their three on-campus buildings was provided prior to formal interviews for the 'High Five' participants that followed. Happily, all succeeded in obtaining placements.

The graduates all appreciated the introductions, information, inspections and interviews which provided them with ample scope to demonstrate their claims for the available internships. They had prepared diligently for the process having researched IBM Australia and the rich opportunities that this new program provides. Most are very highly qualified, holding degrees from institutions on the sub-continent as well as IT post-graduate degrees from Federation University.

The international students comments that follow are instructive:



▲ Syed Idris

Syed Idris from Hyderabad, India is looking forward to starting his IT career in hardware, help-desk or as a Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) expert. In the long-term he sees himself as a professional systems analyst with progression coming over five years. Syed says:

"ATMC education taught me different strategies that has helped me in my employment and in my personal life. I am honest, hardworking and a quick learner and I will put my best foot forward to start my IBM career"



▲ Krati Singh

Krati Singh of Lucknow, India is following in the steps of her mother who is employed as a senior systems analyst and has encouraged Krati in her career aspirations. Krati says:

"ATMC has provided me with various opportunities to develop skills including communication and time management in addition to my IT and Business skill-set. ATMC has also helped me to set my goals and has provided me with this great opportunity to become part of a positive recruitment process for a global organization.

*"If selected I will commit myself to the innovative internship program with IBM. My personal motivation reflects the saying – **The doors of success are always open for those who climb until the end.**"*



▲ Muhammad Sharez Akhter

Muhammad Sharez Akhter from the ancient city of Lahore in Pakistan. He first encountered IBM some 15 years ago and became interested in computers via his elder brother. Muhammad says:

"I remain thankful to ATMC for providing me with a valuable platform to become one of the 'IBM family' with its multitude of career opportunities in many international locations."



▲ Saumya Desai

Saumya Desai from Ahmadabad in western India loves to travel and would be willing to work at any IBM location throughout the world. Saumya says:

"If successful I would like to join an IBM Team and progress as a top performing employee. I believe that my personal characteristics equip me for this task including enjoying both working solo and in teams, leading by example, mentoring others, using my developed communication skills and handling pressure in a range of assignments.

"I would especially like to thank ATMC for my development to date and the caring staff led by Manish, Amit, Ashwin and the whole ATMC 'family'."



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