



PhD Industry Internships

Do you want to enrich your research and enhance your future career prospects?

What is a PhD Industry Internship?

A research internship involves undertaking a short-term, real-life project with an industry partner to tackle a specific business problem.

Research students are in demand by industry, government and not-for-profit organisations for their subject expertise, research capabilities and critical analysis skills. Opportunities can be paid or unpaid by the organisation.

Examples of previous student projects include:

- Literature reviews and environmental scans
- Collecting or analysing data
- Developing a project plan
- Designing a new program or prototype
- Curating an exhibition
- Investigating or reporting findings on a business process

Am I eligible?

Open to all PhD students who organise an internship project (in writing):

1. Within 18 months of course commencement (or part-time equivalent)
2. With an eligible industry partner / research end-user (external to academia)
3. Related to your area of research, and consisting of R&D activities
4. For a minimum of 3 months (60 full-time equivalent days) – structured at a time to suit your studies and your industry partner

Note: Curtin internship incentives of up to \$4,000 are available if you meet the above criteria.

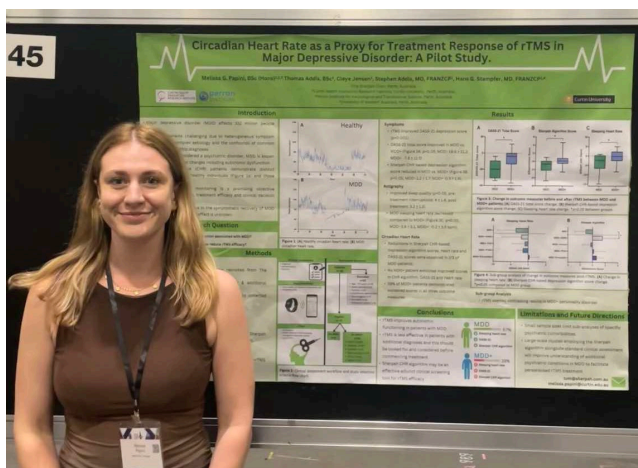
Industry-sponsored PhD's and work experience in a cognate area may also be considered eligible internships.



What are the benefits?

Students report a wide range of professional and personal benefits from taking part in a research internship. These include:

- Giving context and new insights into their research
- A better understanding of the industry and their preferred career pathway
- Developing professional networks, resulting in future career opportunities
- Increased self-confidence and improved communication skills
- An opportunity to step away from their research, discuss their topic with like-minded professionals and develop a renewed motivation for their studies



"I strongly recommend an internship as part of your PhD. When you study something intensely for a significant amount of time you can get tunnel vision. The internship forced me to take a step back and look at things from another perspective."

Melissa, PhD candidate and research intern with The Sherpah Clinic – presenting her internship findings at a London conference

Graduate Research School

Building: 101.125 (next to Medical Centre)

Open: 10am – 2pm

Phone: 9266 3337

Email: roc-excellence@curtin.edu.au

Web: [Curtin Research Internships](#)

Next steps?

1. Discuss with your supervisor

Talk to your supervisor, ideally within the first 6 months of study, about the suitability and best timing of a research internship.

2. Source an internship

Through your supervisor or your own professional and personal networks, [Curtin Industry Exchange](#), [Unihub](#), [Curtin Careers Team](#), GRS newsletter, LinkedIn, Seek, professional organisations, or by direct approach to a prospective host.

3. Complete an internship agreement

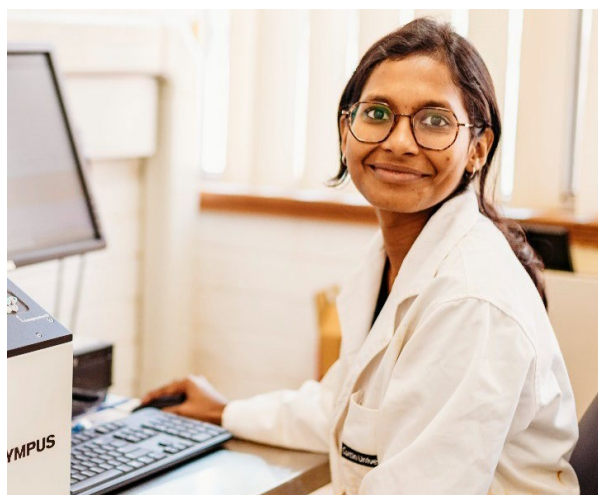
Download and complete the internship agreements from the [Curtin HDR webpage](#) and send to the [Graduate Research School](#)

4. Prepare for your internship

Complete the [pre-internship checklist](#) via SONIA and attend an [internship preparation workshop](#).

5. Claim your internship incentive

Once the above steps are complete and you have confirmed you are eligible, you can begin the [claim process](#) via Concur.



"I gained insights into key industry drivers, which I incorporated into my PhD.

I became more confident in the workplace and was able to assess if the nature of the work aligned with my career interests."

Yamini, PhD candidate and research intern with Lynas Rare Earths