

Graduate Research Projects and Collaborations at the University of Melbourne

At the University of Melbourne, our graduate researchers (PhD and research masters candidates) receive world-class training from leading experts in their fields. They are equipped with advanced research skills, analytical thinking, and specialist knowledge to tackle real-world challenges in a diverse range of organisations, including businesses, government, and community groups, both domestic and international.

Collaboration opportunities

Engage with our graduate researchers through short-term R&D projects (research internships) or through longer-term collaboration in an industry PhD. We co-develop these projects with you, which typically have joint supervision from both a University academic and your organisation.

Depending on your needs, we can help you find the right candidate or you can sponsor a qualified employee from your organisation to undertake a PhD with us. Where it adds value to the research, we also encourage group projects, offering a cohort experience.

Benefits to your organisation

- Leverage specialist knowledge and advanced research skills to address your R&D challenges.
- Access the University's state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure to enhance your innovation capabilities.
- Build your recruitment pipeline by 'road-testing' potential employees in a practical, low-risk setting.
- Collaborate on publications and strengthen connections with the research community.
- Support the professional development of tomorrow's research leaders while benefiting from their fresh insights and capabilities.

Contact us

Contact our Business Development team at industry-enquiries@unimelb.edu.au to explore how we can help you achieve your R&D goals through tailored research collaborations.

"The most valuable part of the internship program for Aurecon has been the opportunity to source research expertise, from across multiple disciplines, to meet some of the most complex challenges in industry. Internship project outcomes are having an immediate impact with our clients and within Aurecon."

Dr Slaven Marusic

Digital Insights Leader at Aurecon, Research Internship Host



	Unlimited opportunities		Competitive grant funded opportunities		
Type of collaboration	Research Internship	UniMelb Industry-Engaged PhD	National Industry PhD – Industry Linked Stream	National Industry PhD – Industry Researcher Stream	CSIRO Industry PhD
Overview	Engage a graduate researcher in a short-term, standalone R&D project tailored to a specific challenge in your organisation, providing a focused and flexible approach to problem-solving.	Collaborate with the University to co-develop and jointly supervise a PhD project tailored to your organisation's specific R&D needs. The candidate can be either a current employee or sourced by the University. Candidates must meet admission eligibility requirements.	Co-fund, co-develop, and jointly supervise a PhD project, embedding a candidate within your organisation to drive research that addresses specific organisational objectives, without the candidate being an employee.	Enable one of your employees to pursue a PhD while retaining their full salary and benefits, enhancing their skills and driving innovation within your organisation.	Partner with the University and CSIRO to co-develop and jointly supervise a PhD project, leveraging combined expertise and resources to address your specific research challenges.
Duration	3-6 months (minimum 60 FTE days)	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
Location/mode of engagement	Flexible – onsite or online, Australia or abroad.	Flexible, with periods of embedment in industry. Candidates must spend a total of at least 12 months embedded at the University across their degree.	Candidates must spend at least 12 months embedded at the University (on-campus) and 20-50% of candidature embedded in your organisation.	Candidates must spend at least 12 months and up to 50% of the program duration embedded at the University (on-campus).	Candidates must spend at least 12 months embedded at the University (on-campus).
Projects open to:					
PhD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Research masters	✓				
Australian/NZ citizens	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Other citizens	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Intellectual Property	Project IP is typically owned by the industry partner.	Project IP is negotiable and may be owned by the industry partner, with the University receiving a royalty-free, non-transferable, non-exclusive license for non-commercial use.	Project IP is typically owned by the University, which grants the industry partner a royalty-free, non-transferable, non-exclusive license to use the Project IP for internal, non-commercial purposes.		
Background IP	Each party retains ownership of their own Background IP, which can be licensed for commercialisation by negotiation.				
Cost to your organisation	\$17,400 for a 3-month internship. An additional \$3,300 per month beyond 3 months. A discounted rate is available for non-government not-for-profit organisations.	Project costs may vary by project and Faculty, but at minimum: Non-employees should receive the Melbourne Research Scholarship (Stipend), while employees should continue receiving their salary and benefits. Additional costs may include project expenses and travel during the PhD.	Scholarship top-up of at least \$10,000 per annum.	The employee must retain their full salary and benefits for up to 4 years. You receive \$44,600 per year to subsidise salary costs.	Scholarship top-up of \$12,000 per annum.