



WA Food Industry Education Collaboration

The WA Food Industry Education Collaboration (WAFEC) provides high-quality internships to help businesses access new skills and expertise, and tertiary students to gain workplace experience and transition into STEM jobs within the WA food and beverage sector.

STEM student internship examples

STEM Field	Project summary	Student skills
Food Science	Conduct desktop research focussing on new functional ingredients or processes to determine which would be most suitable to be utilised in business applications. <i>*this could also be a project for any STEM field dependent on the subject matter</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience conducting a literature review • Interest in subject matter
Food or Agricultural Science	Assisting in collecting and analysing data from various sources including trials, experiments, and on-site data. Helping to maintain records and assisting in report preparation. Also aiding in the assistance of industry trends, competitor activities and market opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong interest in subject matter • Problem-solving skills and a willingness to learn • Knowledge of data analysis tools and software
Food Science or Oenology	Utilising understanding of microbiology and/or chemistry to conduct experiments and explore recipe alterations, shelf-life variations, and/or fining trials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of subject matter • Knowledge of laboratory tests • Understanding of data analysis • Problem-solving skills and a willingness to learn
Engineering - general	Software, Mechanical, and Electrical Engineering projects to support ongoing innovative food or beverage packaging projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good communications skills, both written and verbal. • Natural problem solver, who can display 'out of the box' thinking. • Strong technical knowledge in chosen specialisation. • Willingness to learn new skills and ask questions.
Data science	Scan, test and import data of different material or other physical samples, helping to develop and improve any AI technology that will analyse and/or catalogue these.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of spectrometry • Understanding of theoretical optics • Understanding of experimental design

Engineering - processing	Research and development project to assess new equipment / system monitoring performance. Key activities will involve the design and implementation of various experiments and the collection and analysis of results.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good communications skills, both written and verbal. • Natural problem solver, who can display 'out of the box' thinking. • Strong technical knowledge in chosen specialisation. • Willingness to learn new skills and ask questions.
Engineering – mechanical or processing	Assisting with opportunities for improving processes and efficiencies on the manufacturing floor. Working to understand the manufacturing process, from storage through to assembly and quality assurance and suggesting improvements, using experience in 3D design and CAD to help design solutions that will help optimise processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proficient in Excel spreadsheets • Knowledge in process engineering • Basic understanding of working within Australian standards
Data science	Managing and analysing multiple data sets to help inform data driven, sustainable practices in food or beverage processing. Clean, manage, integrate, and analyse these data sets to discover insightful trends and learnings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience with data management (cleaning, organising, integration) • Experience with statistical analysis • Experience with programming and AI (dependant on business needs)
Multiple	Working across various teams to support research, due diligence, and new business opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent research and data analysis capabilities • High attention to detail and ability to handle multiple tasks simultaneously • Entrepreneurial spirit and a drive to excel
Multiple	Monitoring an environment to determine and understand issues and potential intervention approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of subject environment and required STEM skills • Knowledge of experimental design and record keeping • Understanding of data analysis

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For further information

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