

Industry-Schools Engagement

How you can support your business through engagement with schools

Why it's important for industry to engage with schools

Employer contacts at school make a difference to the employment prospects of young adults

“Young adults surveyed who recalled four or more activities with employers while at school were five times less likely to be not in employment education or training (NEET).”

Building effective, long-standing and mutually beneficial relationships between industry and schools will also go some way to help address the skills gap that many employers face. A large number of employers find it difficult to recruit for entry level roles and many are concerned about finding the skills they need for their business in the future.

The support that industry can offer to schools to improve their careers provision will no doubt encourage more young people to consider the local and varied career pathways available and inspire the next generation to build and support your industry and the future economy of NSW.

Ways to engage with schools

Work Experience

Work experience is an arrangement which allows a student to perform tasks and duties similar to the functions of a regular worker.

The goal of work experience is to provide students with exposure to a real-work environment and provide valuable insight into the foundational skills required for work and how to participate in a workplace.

Students spend time in an industry or job of their choice during work experience. Students can be inspired and motivated by the people they meet and benefit from connecting with employers.

Students are not paid for workplace learning.

Work Placement

Work placement is a mandatory component of many industry-based vocational education and training (VET) courses that students can choose as part of their studies for the NSW Higher School Certificate. Work Placement is coordinated across NSW by a network of Work Placement Service Providers.

Students develop industry specific competencies, employability skills and appropriate work attitudes in a work environment. Completion of 70 hours of work placement during Years 11 and 12 is usual.

Students must be flexible to suit industry hours and prepared to travel. For example, construction students might start at 7am and hospitality students may work evenings.

School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships in NSW

Taking on a school based apprentice or trainee means preparing the future workforce for your business, organisation and/or industry. Providing job opportunities for young people is essential in developing the skills base of tomorrow.

They are available to all Year 10, 11 and 12 high school students in NSW and allow students to commence an apprenticeship or complete a traineeship while at school. They combine part time paid work, training and school; and as well as an industry recognised national qualification, it provides credit towards their HSC.

For you, training costs are minimised, financial incentives ease of take-up and you can expect a tailor-made worker trained and ready to contribute after the HSC.

Other ways to engage

There are other ways that you and your business can effectively engage with your local schools. You could support the delivery of or participate in the following:

- Industry workplace visits
- Industry information sessions or presentations
- Mentoring or coaching students
- Work preparation activities for students such as industry panels or mock interviews

How to engage

If you are able to engage with your local schools and wish to discuss opportunities for you to do so, please contact your RIEP officer:

Region	RIEP Officer	Email	Phone
South & South West Sydney	Rhonda Stone	rhonda.stone@industry.nsw.gov.au	0448 059 494