

Gail Gago

Minister for Science and Information Economy

Martin Hamilton-Smith

Minister for Defence Industries

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Students gain valuable experience through industry-based internships

A new crop of nine South Australian university students have secured internships with local companies to get a head start on their careers in the defence, science and technology sectors.

Minister for Science and Information Economy Gail Gago said this was the second round of the State Government's Defence and STEM Internship Program, which enabled students to gain valuable industry experience through structured work placements with local technology-based companies.

"The nine successful interns will be hosted by a range of companies, including Australian Welding Solutions, Frazer-Nash Consultancy, Babcock Pty Ltd, Simulation Australasia, bzipay Ptd Ltd and the Defence Teaming Centre Aerospace Alliance," Ms Gago said.

"Students will be working on projects ranging from information technology and software design to projects involving mechanical, maritime and aerospace engineering.

"I was particularly pleased to see the second round of the program has attracted more female applicants, as we are actively encouraging more women to study and work in the science and technology fields."

Defence Industries Minister Martin Hamilton-Smith said the defence sector would be critical to South Australia's economic prosperity as we work to shift from traditional to high-value manufacturing.

"Our state is home to a world-class defence industry delivering innovative solutions to complex problems, and so it is vital that we have a pipeline of skilled workers capable of meeting the industry's needs into the future," Mr Hamilton-Smith said.

"Student work placements benefit both the student and employer, though the costs, especially among small to medium companies, can be a deterrent.

"This internship program provides a grant to both the student and the employer to help offset some of these associated costs, further demonstrating our ongoing commitment to investing in South Australia's defence industry."

Lisa Neldner is studying a double Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical and Aerospace) and Bachelor of Mathematical and Computer Sciences at the University of Adelaide and was successful in gaining an internship with engineering firm Frazer-Nash.

"I'm excited to be part of this internship program, as it will help me gain valuable experience in real-world engineering situations," Ms Neldner said.

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“It’s rewarding to have the chance to work with experienced people in the industry and apply the skills and knowledge I’ve gained at university.”

Dr Janet Wilson leads Frazer-Nash’s advanced analysis team in Adelaide, and will be mentoring Lisa through her placement.

“It’s been great to engage with a number of talented local students as part of our recruitment activities for this year’s internship program, and to see them excited at the prospect of being involved in challenging projects that will address real issues for our clients,” Dr Wilson said.

“Lisa stood out as a highly capable young engineer, and I’m looking forward to working with her over the summer.”