

Industry Innovation Project 2027

Bachelor of Creative Intelligence and Innovation
(BCII)



Transdisciplinary School (TDS)

The Transdisciplinary School is a world-first dedicated space for transdisciplinary research, education, and partnerships.

What is Transdisciplinary?

Transdisciplinary thinking seeks to build bridges between fields of study and expertise so that diverse perspectives can intersect, ideas can be shared more fluidly between industries, and people can thrive through exposure to new ways of thinking.

Transdisciplinary thinking illuminates possibilities for the future by building on multiple ways of knowing, uncovering novel approaches to the challenges of our time.

Australia's most awarded degree

The Bachelor of Creative Intelligence and Innovation (BCII) is a pioneering transdisciplinary combined degree. Radical in its ambition, BCII combines students from 25 disciplines with a future-oriented, industry-engaged approach to learning.

UTS has developed a curriculum that champions critical and creative thinking, problem solving, innovation and invention, complexity and entrepreneurship – preparing students for the jobs of the future.



Our awards

2022 International Green Gown Awards

'Next Generation Learning and Skills'.

2019 BHERT Awards

'Outstanding collaboration in higher education and training' in the category 'industry problem solving'.

2019 Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT)

Award for programs that enhance learning' for educational partnerships and collaborations with other organisations.

2016 The Wharton 'Reimagine Education' Awards

Bronze Award in Presence Learning for 'innovative classroom-based pedagogy resulting in enhanced student learning'.

Why partner with us?



Embark on a journey of mutual learning with 2 x dedicated student teams who are adept at creative practices and methods across disciplines.



Provide your staff with a rewarding mentoring opportunity and meet with some of UTS' best and brightest talent. Uncover future potential recruitment opportunities.



Delve into a complex challenge your organisation faces with a team of young, bright, unencumbered, innovation-focused people.



Work with students whose education has defied silos and who can surprise you with their confidence to lead innovative processes.



Work with young and enthusiastic students who have a broad skill set from 25 disciplines (i.e. Business, Law, Design Architecture, Communication, Health, Sciences, Engineering and more)



Regular check ins with academic tutors provide partners with an informed, structured and supported engagement.



IIP provides industry partners with a unique opportunity to engage with emerging innovators, entrepreneurs, creative practitioners and change-makers.



Benefit from rich university resources.

“Working with BCI students always feels like a genuine partnership. We learn a lot from each other, challenge each other's thinking, and it's rewarding to see everyone's growth from week 1 to the final presentation”.

Future Friendly, Industry Partner





Push the Boundaries of Your Organisation's Most Complex Problems

The problems faced by organisations, communities and broader society are often complex and networked, unable to be solved simply by an individual or single discipline.

Enter the Industry Innovation Project (IIP)

Over a 13-week period from March to June 2027, two transdisciplinary teams of final-year BCII students will tackle your organisation's complex challenge.

After receiving the same project brief from your organisation, the teams work independently from one another, developing their own research, insights and recommendations.

IIP provides industry partners with a unique opportunity to engage with emerging innovators, entrepreneurs, creative practitioners and change-makers.

Throughout the project, your two multidisciplinary student teams are supported by academic staff and engage partners through regular check-ins and milestone presentations

The result is two distinct responses to your challenge, creating twice the opportunity to uncover fresh thinking, challenge assumptions and explore new possibilities for navigating an increasingly complex future – plus more opportunities to identify potential future talent for your organisation.

"The methods for problem solving that BCII students are equipped with are absolutely unique to this program"

Ashlee Gardner
Smart City & Innovation Manager



"Our experience as a partner with IIP students has been great. We were blown away at our student group's critical thinking skills, professionalism and knowledge of complex organisations."

Claudia Odello
Chief Executive Officer



"The program is well structured and is run really well. The students blew us away with their enthusiasm, hunger to research and their ability to synthesise it into a tangible outcome. An outcome that we couldn't have envisaged at the start of the project. I highly recommend IIP."

Adriaan Stellingwerf
Senior Software Engineer



Discover how working alongside BCII students in IIP has generated great impact for organisations.

Explore our case studies.



Does my organisation have a “complex” challenge?

What is a complex challenge?

A complex challenge is characterised by its multiple, interconnected elements, lack of clear solutions, and the need for adaptable strategies. Complex challenges often involve uncertainty, diverse perspectives, and require creative, transdisciplinary and collaborative problem-solving approaches.

Whilst you cannot necessarily “solve” a complex challenge-through transdisciplinary tools and approaches like those taught at TDS, our students can provide pathways and fresh ideas that can help transform how your organisation makes progress towards a preferred future state.

The Cynefin Framework

Not all challenges are the same. The Cynefin Framework designed by David Snowden, can help organisations understand the type of problem they’re facing. It identifies four main domains:

- **Clear:** Straightforward with obvious solutions.
- **Complicated:** Problems that require expertise to analyse and solve.
- **Complex:** Challenges where ideas emerge through experimentation and collaboration.
- **Chaotic:** Urgent situations requiring immediate action to stabilise.

For the IIP, we focus on **complex challenges**, those that don’t have a *single answer*, where ideas emerge through exploration, and where creative collaboration can unlock innovative outcomes and diverse perspectives.

Examples of complex challenges...

“Hybrid work has changed how our people collaborate, but we don’t yet know what the future long-term model should be. What could the future of work look like in our sector, and how can we prepare to support both productivity and well-being?”

“We provide services in the health sector, but our clients face increasingly complex lifestyle challenges. How might we reimagine service delivery to better support holistic wellbeing in a way that’s accessible and inclusive?”

“Our brand has a strong legacy, but we’re unsure how to remain relevant with Gen Z. What new forms of engagement or storytelling could help us authentically connect with their values, habits, and expectations?”



Partner Commitment and Expectations

IIP is a unique partner engagement that supports the generation of purpose-driven, impactful insights and interventions.

Achieving these high-level insights requires commitment from partner organisations.

Partner Roles

Project Lead

They are the main point of contact for students throughout the project. They're required to attend all mandatory sessions (key events) and engage in weekly meetings with the team.

The overall minimum partner time investment is approximately 15-18 hours across the whole IIP program – primarily through short team meetings and key milestone events.

Executive Sponsor

Each project must also have an executive sponsor. They should be someone in the organisation who has decision-making capabilities. This helps ensure project insights can inform organisational decision-making and maximise the value of outcomes.

Key Events

Once you have been **confirmed** as an industry partner, the Project Lead must be available to attend the following events.

Partner Briefing

Meet tutors and fellow partners

4th March 2027 (online)

Meet the Teams

Meet your two student teams in person

11th March (on campus)

Weekly Student Team Meetings

Between you and your student teams

W/C 15th March (online or in-person)

Tutor-Partner Progress Check In

Partner + subject tutor

W/C 22nd March & W/C 3rd May

Student-Partner Challenge Reframe

Student teams present their challenge reframe to partner and tutor

5th or 7th April (online)

Final Presentations

Your two teams will present their recommendations to your organisation

26th or 27th May (online)

For a full list of key dates and time investment requirements for partners, tutors and students over the program, please visit the FAQ section on our IIP page [here](#).

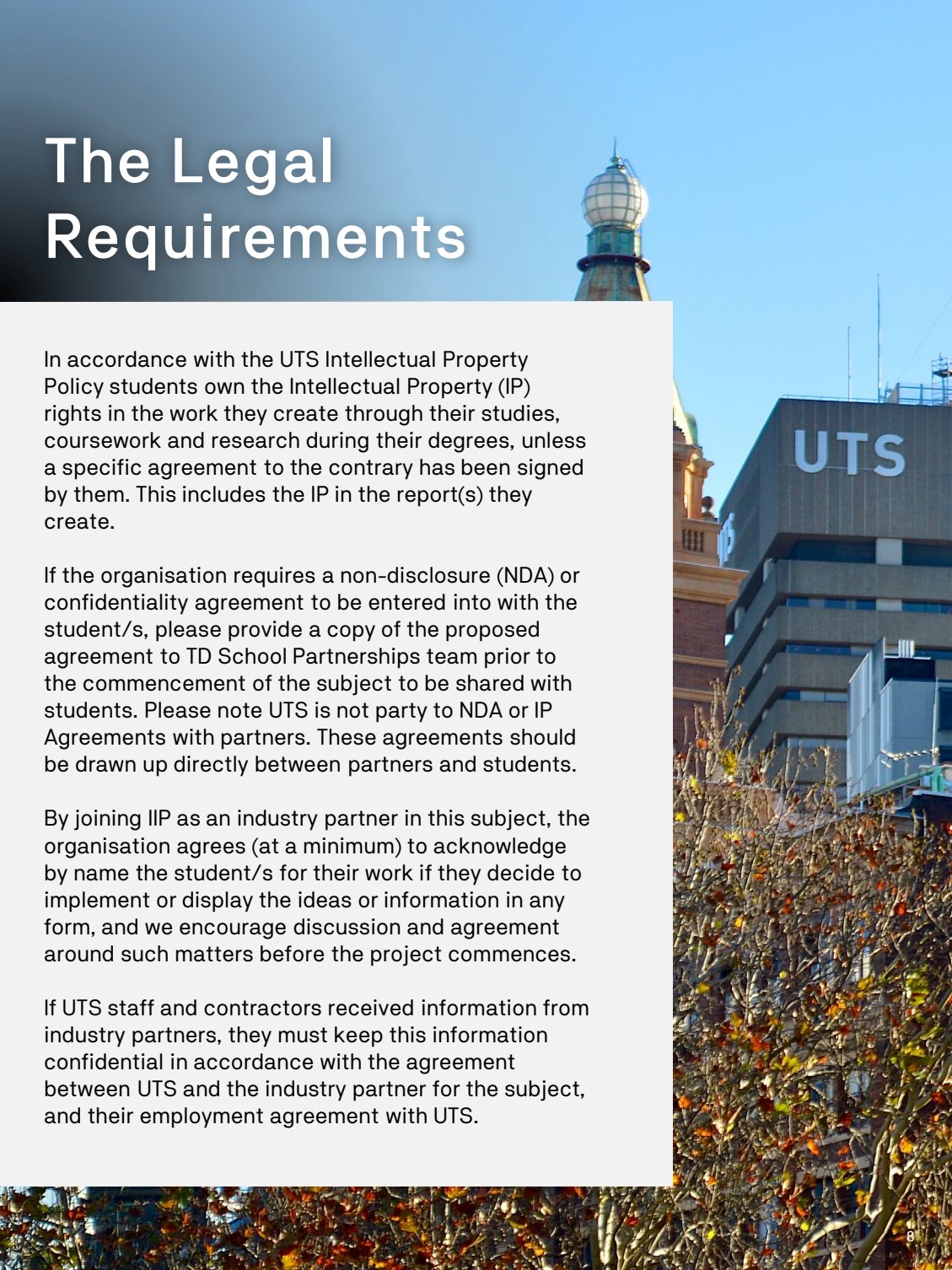
The Legal Requirements

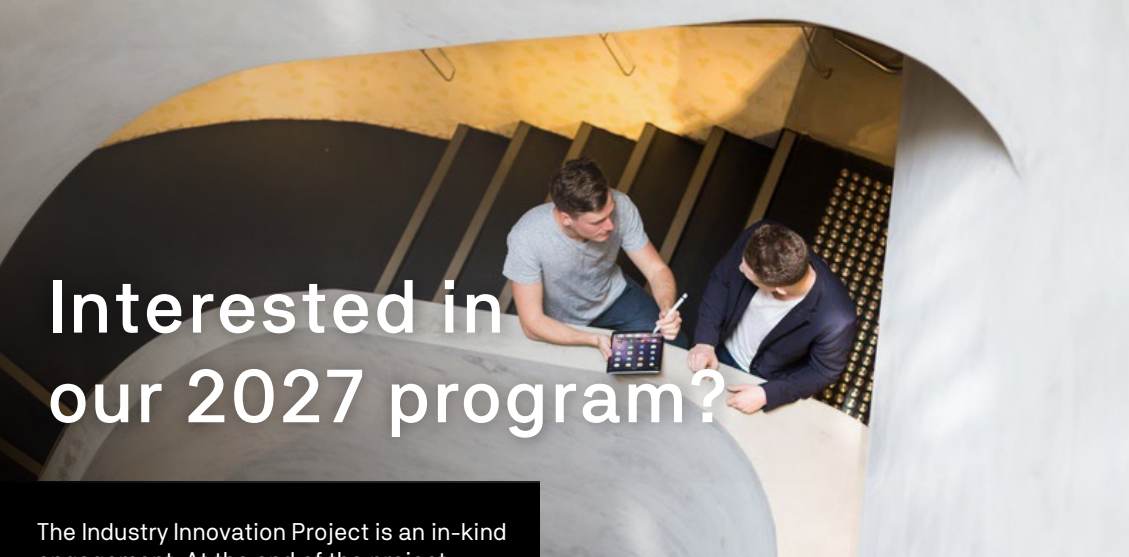
In accordance with the UTS Intellectual Property Policy students own the Intellectual Property (IP) rights in the work they create through their studies, coursework and research during their degrees, unless a specific agreement to the contrary has been signed by them. This includes the IP in the report(s) they create.

If the organisation requires a non-disclosure (NDA) or confidentiality agreement to be entered into with the student/s, please provide a copy of the proposed agreement to TD School Partnerships team prior to the commencement of the subject to be shared with students. Please note UTS is not party to NDA or IP Agreements with partners. These agreements should be drawn up directly between partners and students.

By joining IIP as an industry partner in this subject, the organisation agrees (at a minimum) to acknowledge by name the student/s for their work if they decide to implement or display the ideas or information in any form, and we encourage discussion and agreement around such matters before the project commences.

If UTS staff and contractors received information from industry partners, they must keep this information confidential in accordance with the agreement between UTS and the industry partner for the subject, and their employment agreement with UTS.





Interested in our 2027 program?

The Industry Innovation Project is an in-kind engagement. At the end of the project, partners receive two independent final presentations and reports outlining research findings, opportunities and recommendations.

To apply, you must formally submit via our **Expression of Interest** form. This is a competitive process, and projects are ultimately selected by a student voting process.

If you'd like to learn more, soundboard some challenge statements or have more specific questions, please contact us at:
TDSchoolPartnerships@uts.edu.au

[See an example EOI submission](#)

[Click here to submit your 2027 EOI.](#)

IIP 2027 Expressions of
Interest dates:

- **EOI Opens** - Thursday, 15th October
- **Feedback Period** - Wednesday, 3rd-15th November
(submit before this date to receive feedback and improve your chances of your EOI progressing to student voting)
- **EOI Closes** - Friday, 27th November

The IIP Roadmap

October '26

Thursday 15th October
EOI Opens

November '26

3rd-15th November
EOI Feedback period

November '26

Friday, 27th November
EOIs closes

January '27

Students vote for their top preferences

February '27

Confirmed partners notified

March '27

Monday, 4th March
Subject formally starts