

A photograph of two students, a man and a woman, working on a project. They are standing in front of a large glass panel, possibly a whiteboard or a display, and are using yellow sticky notes to create a diagram. The man is in the foreground, wearing glasses and a dark jacket, and is pointing at the glass. The woman is behind him, also looking at the glass. The background is blurred, showing an indoor setting with other people and lights.

Transdisciplinary
School



Industry Innovation Project 2026

Bachelor of Creative Intelligence and Innovation (BCII)

UTS CRICOS 00099F
UTS TEQSA PRV12060



Transdisciplinary (TD) School

The Transdisciplinary School is Australia's first dedicated space for transdisciplinary education, research 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 world-first transdisciplinary combined degree. Radical in its ambition, BCII combines students from 26 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'.

2021 Australasia 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 students who are adept at creative practices and methods across the 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 27 disciplines (i.e. Business, Law, Design Architecture, Communication, Health, Sciences and Engineering)



Receive input from academic experts supervising your organisations project and attend exclusive TD School industry events.



Meet and network with other innovative people participating from industry, government and community organisations.



Benefit from rich university resources.

“The expertise and lateral thinking the students bring in problem exploration, their ability to blend their own experiences from their disciplines, and the professionalism of their approach to our stakeholder groups resulted in a very tangible outcome for us to meaningfully take forward and implement.”

Daniel San Martin, Innovation Partner

aurecon

A photograph of three people in a modern office setting. A man in a blue t-shirt and a woman in a dark blazer are seated at a table, looking towards a woman in a light grey suit who is standing and gesturing. Large windows in the background show a cityscape.

Push the Boundaries of Your Organisations 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 2026, final year BCII students will work in small, transdisciplinary teams (combining diverse degrees and perspectives) to collaboratively ideate innovative ideas that address the complex challenge set by their industry partner.

IIP provides industry partners with a unique opportunity to connect with final year BCII students. These students will be the next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs, creative practitioners and change-makers.

Expect your organisation to be exposed to innovative thinking, processes and scenarios that address the highly complex and unpredictable nature of our future.

“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, Deputy CEO



“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 to any organisation.”

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 characterized 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 “solve” a complex challenge, through transdisciplinary tools and approaches like those taught at TD School, our students can provide ideas and 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.

Example 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 time commitment for project leads is an average of 2-3 hours per week over the 13 week period.

Executive Sponsor

Each project must also have an executive sponsor. They should be someone in the organisation who has decision-making capabilities. This supports the strategic input and impact of outcomes.

Key Events

The Project Lead must be available on the following events. Official dates are to be confirmed by October 2025:

Partner Briefing

Meet tutors and fellow partners
4th March 2026 - Online

Welcome Event

Meet your student team in person
12th March - On Campus

Weekly Meetings

You and the team throughout the working weeks
Format to be agreed

Reframe Check-In

Check-in with your student team and another with your teams tutor
13th - 17th April - Format to be agreed

Final presentations

1-hour final presentation
1-2nd June Online

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 2026 program?

The Industry Innovation Project is an in-kind engagement. To apply, you must formally submit via our **Expression of Interest** form. This is a competitive process and projects are ultimately selected by student vote.

[See an example EOI submission.](#)

If you'd like to learn more, soundboard some challenge statements or have more specific questions, please contact us at:

TDSchoolPartnerships@uts.edu.au

2026 Expressions of Interest dates:

1st October: EOI Opens

31st October: Feedback closes
(submit before this date to receive feedback and improve your chances of your EOI progressing to student voting)

6th December: EOI Closes

The IIP Roadmap

Final dates to be confirmed by October 2025

October '25

1st October
EOI Opens

October '25

1st - 31st October
EOI Feedback period

December '25

6th December
EOIs closes

January '26

Students vote for their top preferences

February '26

Confirmed partners notified

March '26

9th March
Subject formally starts

April '26

13th - 24th April
Reframe check-ins

June '26

1-2nd June
Final presentations