



The Industry Doctorate Program

The program

The UTS Industry Doctorate Program (IDP) is a targeted PhD program that matches industry organisations with world-class research expertise. It delivers research solutions to real and pressing problems for organisations of all sizes, and across all sectors.

When you engage with the IDP, you'll bring your research problem to UTS, and we'll work with you to transform it into a structured PhD program. You'll be paired with a dedicated UTS PhD student who's committed to solving an existing challenge for your organisation, or you might choose to put one of your key employees forward for a truly unique career development opportunity (provided they meet UTS entry requirements). Throughout the program, you'll also interact with your student's supervisor, who'll have significant expertise in your field of inquiry and who'll take a leading role in developing the research program and process.

WHO'S INVOLVED?

There are three parties who make up each IDP collaboration:

- The industry partner (that's you!)
- A UTS academic supervisor with expertise in your professional field
- A UTS PhD student.

BENEFITS OF THE IDP

The IDP has been designed to meet the need within industry for cost-effective, rigorous and structured research support. And it's a two-way street - as well as gaining dedicated research expertise within your organisation, you'll also be helping to foster the next generation of research talent in your field.

Here's how it works





It's great for your organisation

Here's what's in it for you:

- Dedicated research expertise for a minimum three-year period
- A targeted research program that genuinely responds to the needs of your organisation, regardless of the sector you work in
- Access to world-class researchers, research facilities and research infrastructure at UTS – and to future opportunities for industry-university research collaborations
- Research results that respond to your chosen research problem, plus ownership of any intellectual property generated during the project
- Firsthand experience of innovation in action and the opportunity to embed an innovation culture within your organisation
- Increased opportunities for staff – each project requires a project sponsor from within your organisation, leading to new opportunities for a member of your team
- The chance to participate in candidate selection (if you choose to be matched with a UTS PhD student) or to provide a unique development opportunity for a key employee.

“Recognised for both its quality of research and appreciation of innovation – UTS really fit the bill.”

For the Starlight Foundation, sponsoring UTS PhD student Michelle Platcher (pictured) provided a breadth of expertise to their existing research team

“Our industry PhD project is an explanatory study of Livewire.org, Starlight’s online community for adolescents living with a chronic illness. The research explores how social media interventions can be a uniquely effective strategy for enhancing the psychosocial health and wellbeing of this cohort.

We chose an industry-sponsored PhD because our internal research team is fairly small, and we were looking for a partner who could bring a breadth of expertise to the problem. We wanted an institution that had international credibility and was recognised for both its quality of research and appreciation of innovation – UTS really fit the bill.

As an organisation, we’re passionate about children and young people reaching their potential. We wanted to provide an opportunity for a young researcher to look at this problem in depth and offer some significant work around it.

Our PhD student Michelle has two supervisors at UTS, one from Communications and one from Health. She’s currently in the second year of her PhD, and already well on track to make an impact with her findings. She brings experience, insight and passion to her work.

DR CLAIRE TREADGOLD
Industry partner
Starlight Foundation

THE IDP FUNDING MODEL

What you contribute

As the industry partner, you’ll pay a tax-free stipend for your UTS PhD student – or, if your PhD student is a current employee of your company, you’ll continue to pay their salary. You’ll also pay an annual research support fee, which will contribute to project costs.

What we contribute

As well as being a research program, the IDP is also a researcher development program – and that’s where we come in. While your PhD student will build a wide range of skills as a result of working on your project, they’ll also receive designated researcher development support, supervision and academic expertise, as well as access to research infrastructure as it relates to their project – and it’s all funded by UTS. Ongoing researcher development means better outcomes for you: as well as research skills, students will emerge with high-level professional capabilities (detailed below). They’ll also be able to apply for up to \$5,000 from the IDP Student Conference Fund, which gives them the chance to present your research problem – and their research – at an internationally recognised conference.

“It also allows me to join my professional career with my education for personal development.”



JAMES BROWNLOW
Employer-sponsored IDP candidate
Colonial First State

“CFS is an employer of choice and, as such, they’re strong advocates of employee development. Having me participate in the IDP at the UTS allows me to develop my researcher and analytics skill whilst also looking to solve a challenge for our business.

My research looks at how new technologies and approaches might improve retirement outcomes. Specifically, I’m interested in how investors’ engagement with their superannuation can be quantified using data mining, instead of relying on anecdotal evidence. This is important because existing research already highlights correlation between low engagement and poor retirement outcomes.

IDP research is different to the research I would be able to conduct on my own. For instance, I can access data and customers that other researchers can’t. It also allows me to join my professional career with my education for personal development.

The IDP has allowed me to really focus on solution for industry. I know that the research I’m conducting will be used to make a difference in the Australian community.”

And it’s great for the PhD candidate too

Here’s what’s in it for the student:

- Experience working on a real-world research problem
- The opportunity to see the immediate impact of their work
- The chance to receive input and guidance from both academia and industry
- Access to new career opportunities in industry research
- The opportunity to build industry connections
- A wealth of new research and professional skills.

THE INDUSTRY RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (IRDP)

The IRDP is part of the UTS contribution to the IDP. This professional development program will take your IDP researcher from PhD student to industry professional, and give them a wealth of skills that will add extra value to your organisation.

They’ll build experience in:

- collaboration and relationship building
- business management
- innovation, commercialisation and entrepreneurship
- industry engagement/awareness
- career planning and management. Students who already have these skills can opt to study advanced research methodologies instead.

Research profile: Eprep



“Networking is another benefit – you meet a lot of people as well.”

For PhD student Karen Duong, the UTS Industry Doctorate Program is providing hands-on experience with industry throughout her degree.

A student in the UTS School of Chemistry and Forensic Science, Karen has been paired with Eprep, a laboratory equipment supplier based in Melbourne. Her PhD has been designed to help Eprep solve a key business problem: developing a series of customisable processes for an automated sample preparation robot that the company is preparing for market.

“Being a part of an industry partnered project gives you more opportunity after your PhD. You get to experience what it would be like to work in industry, and so that should provide you additional skills to get a job,” Duong says.

“Networking is another benefit – you meet a lot of people as well.”

For a small company like Eprep, engaging with UTS in a doctoral partnership provides them with access to cost-effective research expertise, as well as to UTS equipment and facilities.

“Although this is very new development work, it really lends itself to a PhD, because at the end of it, it’s actually a very unique output. From our point of view, if it all fits together and works, it’s got very good commercial value as well,” says Andrew Minett, Eprep’s General Manager.

But the benefits don’t stop there: according to Professor Philip Doble, a leading researcher in the UTS Faculty of Science and the PhD project supervisor, the IDP offers extensive opportunities beyond the research outcomes themselves.

“Eprep is able to tap into our analytical chemistry expertise, which aids in product and application development. They can also access allied technologies at UTS such as high-end mass spectrometers, state-of-the-art analytical tools, and UTS facilities for product marketing, proof of concept customer demonstrations, and user group meetings,” he says.

“From our perspective, we also benefit enormously from performing industry-specific research, as it enables us to remain relevant and responsive to changing industry needs.”

More information

To find out more about the UTS IDP, please contact the UTS Graduate Research School on 02 9514 1336.