

INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

ENGINEERING programs (except Software Engineering)

What is the Industrial Experience (IE) requirement for Engineering students?

To meet Engineers Australia accreditation, all Engineering students must complete 12 weeks (60 days – full time equivalent) of Industrial Experience. For accreditation purposes, Engineering (Honours) students must complete a minimum of 6 weeks (as part of the total 12 week requirement) working in an organisation conducting professional engineering work, under supervision of a qualified, practising professional.

IE can be paid or unpaid. If unpaid, students cannot work more than 12 weeks (60 days).

Students can work full time / part time / casual or a combination of these. For example, students may choose to work part-time during semester and full-time during semester breaks.

Can prior work experience count toward the IE requirement?

Yes, if the work experience:

- Is recent (generally within 18 months).
- Is relevant to the IE requirements (and supervised by a practising professional).

Approval of prior Industrial Experience is at the discretion of the relevant IE Coordinator. Please contact CESE-PEU@newcastle.edu.au for further information.

If approved to count prior IE, you must still submit an IE Report to finalise your IE. This will also include a “Confirmation of Industrial Experience” form from your supervisor.

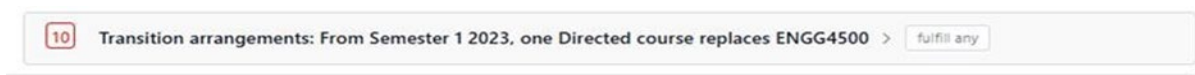
Students Enrolled Pre-2023

What requirements do pre-2023 students need to complete?

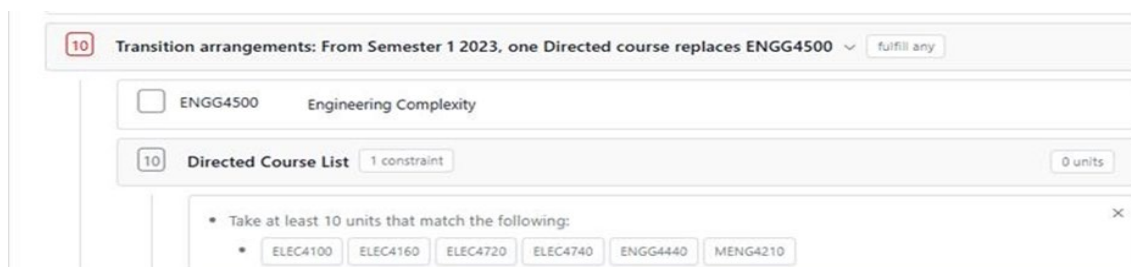
- Students must complete 12 weeks Industrial Experience as a compulsory program requirement.
- If a student has not completed ENGG4500, they must complete a course from the **directed course list** applicable to their program.

Students can access this list in Program Planner by following these steps:

- On the 'Track Progress' and 'Plan your Path' tabs in program planner, students will be able to see any transition arrangements.



Student may need to click on the requirement to expand it and show the specific directed course options (example below, noting there will be a different list of directed courses depending on program, students must check their individual plan in Program Plan to view the directed list for their program):



If students are unable to find the relevant list, they should contact [Program Advice](#)

What requirements do pre-2023 students who transferred to a 2023 or later program need to complete?

- **ENGG3050: Industrial Experience (0 units, 12 weeks required)**
 - All students will be automatically enrolled (or self-enrol) in ENGG3050
 - If students have already completed their 12 weeks of IE, including submission of an approved IE Report in the SONIA placement system, the Professional Experience Unit (PEU) will facilitate the completion of ENGG3050
- **ENGG3000: Engineering Work Integrated Learning (10 units, no placement required)**
 - This course covers a range of industry-relevant topics and issues related to contemporary professional practice.

Commencing students from 2023 onwards

What requirements do commencing students from 2023 onwards need to complete?

- **ENGG3050: Industrial Experience (0 units, 12 weeks required)**
 - All students will be automatically enrolled (or self-enrol) in ENGG3050 - they can complete the Industrial Experience at any stage throughout their program.
- **ENGG3000: Engineering Work Integrated Learning (10 units, no placement required)**
 - This course covers a range of industry-relevant topics and issues related to contemporary professional practice.

Concurrently Enrolled Students

What are the requirements for students concurrently enrolled in two separate Engineering programs (eg. Medical Engineering and Mechanical or Electrical & Electronic Engineering)

- Students only need to complete 1 x 12 week Industrial Experience in either program or across both programs.

What can count towards IE

Students must source their own IE. The University [Careers Service](#) can assist with resume/interview preparation.

Students can complete:

Industry placement/employment – submit *IE Application* and *Confirmation of Industrial Experience* forms in SONIA (refer SONIA Guide below)

Overseas Industrial Experience – Students MUST contact CESE-PEU@newcastle.edu.au **PRIOR** to organising overseas IE.

Summer Scholarships (university-based) – up to 8 weeks. A *Confirmation of Industrial Experience* form must be submitted in SONIA upon completion of the scholarship.

NU Teams or academically-aligned student groups, which are under the supervision of an academic or qualified professional – max. 4 weeks may be claimed for a substantial leadership or team member role. A *Confirmation of Industrial Experience* form must be submitted in SONIA.

Engineers Australia (EA) Virtual Work Experience Modules. Students can receive **1 day of IE** for completion of the virtual work experience relevant to their discipline (an EA certificate will be issued upon completion).

Industry events (eg seminars/site visits) – max. ½ day / event to a maximum of 1 week total. A *Confirmation of Industrial Experience* form must be submitted in SONIA for each event.

Processes in SONIA

How is Industrial Experience documented?

IE is managed in the SONIA placement system, which includes digital forms for students, organisations, and IE Coordinators. These ensure legitimacy and facilitate feedback.

Steps:

1. Industrial Experience Application form

- Student submits an IE Application Form in SONIA **PRIOR to commencement** of IE. This is particularly important for unpaid IE for insurance purposes. If you are using prior experience for your IE, you do not need to submit an IE Application Form – please complete steps 2 & 3.
- The application is assessed for suitability and sent to the organisation for confirmation. Students must then complete and upload a Risk Assessment to the form. The IE Coordinator will then review the forms for final approval before the student commences.

2. Confirmation of Industrial Experience form

- The student will submit this digital form in SONIA after completing their IE. It will then be sent to the organisation supervisor to verify and approve the stated IE hours. Students must save a PDF of the form after completion by the organisation supervisor and upload it to their IE Report.
- For multiple placements, the student will submit individual forms for each placement.
- This form is also used to confirm NUTeams and Summer Scholarship roles.

3. Industrial Experience Report

- The student will submit one IE Report detailing all completed IE (60 days total). The student uploads PDFs of their completion and confirmation forms to their report.
- If the organisation no longer exists or the supervisor is unavailable, the student should contact CESE-PEU@newcastle.edu.au

All students must submit an IE Report in SONIA for review and approval by the IE Coordinator to finalise their IE. This includes students who are approved to count prior IE towards the IE requirement.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact the CESE Professional Experience Unit:

Email: CESE-PEU@newcastle.edu.au

Tel: +61 2 4921 7302

Web: [Professional Experience webpage](#)