



MACQUARIE
University
SYDNEY · AUSTRALIA



THE 2021 PROFESSOR JUDYTH SACHS
PACE PRIZES
Professional and Community Engagement



“Macquarie University’s multi-award-winning PACE (Professional and Community Engagement) program provides real-world experiences through work-integrated learning activities for students. This program is a tribute to the students, partners and staff involved who ensure this collaborative learning continues to reach new frontiers.”

Professor Mariella Herberstein

Interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic),
Macquarie University



“Macquarie University is proud of our multi-award-winning work-integrated learning program, PACE. During 2021 we applied our learnings from the challenges of the previous year to create meaningful workplace engagements. Students are supported to apply their technical skills, gain confidence in their ‘work ready’ employability skills and road-test career goals. The students, partners and staff involved with PACE continue to work collaboratively to ensure great student outcomes as well as effective talent pipelines for our partners.

We congratulate these students on their outstanding contributions to PACE and thank the PACE partners and staff for their ongoing commitment, collaboration and support during 2021.”

Professor Dominique Parrish

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching),
Macquarie University

PACE FACULTY STUDENT PRIZE

The PACE Faculty Student Prize recognises a student or group of students from each faculty for their outstanding contribution to the partner organisation and or the broader community during a work-integrated learning activity. Recipients gave a high-quality reflection on how the work-integrated learning activity improved their overall employability or work-ready skills, and how the activity contributed to their preparedness to achieve their personal career goals.

WINNER

Anastasia Chan

Arts Internship for Researchers (FOAR7004)

Department of Philosophy, Macquarie University

Activity title: *Digital Trust*

Anastasia worked alongside the Digital Trust team to examine ways that social media discourse evolved around the Black Lives Matter protests and COVID-19 vaccine sentiments. Tasked with developing an academic paper based on her findings, Anastasia used a mixed methodology approach: computer science methods to collate data into distinct communities, and theoretical methods to philosophically analyse the data. Extending upon previous academic theories, Anastasia reframed her research to encompass the new topic of digital protest, which had not been previously explored. After its completion, Anastasia's report was additionally presented at a Digital Trust workshop in Canberra to academic experts and will be featured in the upcoming Routledge volume titled *Experimental Methods in Moral Philosophy*.

The assessment panel noted Anastasia's creation of a new body of independent research as an outstanding contribution, paired with an impressive reflection on the challenges and growth experienced throughout the process.

“The fact that Anastasia produced this work in less than a year and was able to deftly interweave feedback from our [Digital Trust] team, as well as from outside experts at ANU demonstrates that she has great potential.” – Host supervisor

WINNER

Shivani Reddy

PACE – Individual Placements (LAWS5051)

Dr Egg Adventures

Activity title: *Legal internship*

As part of Shivani's individual PACE activity with Dr Egg Adventures as a legal and marketing intern, she conducted an internal legal audit, identifying the start-up organisation's compliance and regulatory requirements, and provided solutions suited to the organisation with varying operational price points.

Shivani drafted a licensing agreement to enable the product to be sold to primary schools, in addition to protecting the organisation's intellectual property and digital assets – allowing the start up to be operational and sell to market immediately. Shivani's impact on operational continuity was further evidenced in applying for numerous government grants, which were successful. The grant funds provided a foundation of investment to further expand the organisation's product quality and marketing reach.

The assessment panel spoke highly of the positive impact Shivani provided the organisation and community, while also using the opportunity to maximise her employment preparedness.

“Shivani's diligence, excellent research skills and attention to detail shone through. Her reflective reports exhibited a high-level ability to consider her own performance and knowledge gaps, and to apply these learnings to new tasks.”

– Unit Convenor

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Akanksha Balakumar

Planning Experience (GEOP4080)

WSP Australia

Activity title: *Transport planning intern*

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Hope Rudi Ellis

Ethical Practice in Security Studies (PICT3020)

NSW Police Force Marine Command

Activity title: *Illegal fishing and transitional organised crime*

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Amelia Grey, Junwei Zhang

Professional Social Research Project (SSCI3090)

TAFE NSW

Activity title: *Mining for gold: student data meta-analysis*

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Perri Hutchings

PACE – Individual Placements (LAWS5051)

Wallumatta Legal

Activity title: *Legal internship*

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Elizabeth Laughton

Cultural Heritage and Public History (AHIS3005)

Hornsby Shire Council Local Studies Team

Activity title: *Hornsby Heritage Walk audio guide*

PACE FACULTY STUDENT PRIZE

WINNER

Alana Finlayson, Saireen Moodley

Health Placement (HLTH3050)

Mentoring Men Australia

Activity title: *Men's health research*

Alana and Saireen did their PACE placement with Mentoring Men Australia, a registered not-for-profit organisation, to conduct extensive research into the nine Primary Health Networks (PHN) in New South Wales and locate high-risk areas with poor mental health outcomes. They conducted a needs assessment on specific regions, which included demographic analysis, identifying current mental health programs and priority health areas, and evaluation statements for all PHNs. The review of PHNs included expansion suitability for the host organisation and a draft tender application, which presented information about the organisation and how its work would positively impact the community. Utilising ABS Census data, Alana and Saireen compiled a detailed database of demographic analysis for Mentoring Men to draw on for future grant applications and tenders, in addition to the creation of a how-to video for the organisation to navigate the ABS Table Builder for future projects.

The assessment panel noted the lasting legacy at the partner organisation provided by Alana and Saireen, with a clear benefit to their employability, goals and personal development.

“I believe the work produced by Alana and Saireen not only met the expectations of the host organisation in helping them find better ways to help combat men's mental health issues, but they exceeded these expectations – not just on the quality of the work produced, but also for their dedication and commitment to the work.” – Unit Convenor

WINNER

Kate Quadrio

Psychological Science: Putting Theory into Practice (PSYU3399)

Parramatta DOOLEYS Max Potential

Activity title: *Community coach*

Kate participated in the Max Potential Program as a community coach and mentor to a disadvantaged high school student, conducting fortnightly meetings with the young adult for a period of six months. Building rapport and trust with the young person provided a comfortable space for them to share personal, familial and social barriers that formed the starting point of the coaching relationship.

Kate developed a guidance plan for the young adult's study and sleep schedule, to combat their self-esteem, motivation and feelings of anxiety related to schoolwork. The coaching delivered by Kate and adoption of the guidance plan goals were achieved throughout the six-month period when the student reported having extra sleep, increased energy, studying to a high level and overall positive development.

The assessment panel commented on Kate's strong impact on the young adult's life, the partner organisation and contribution to her own preparedness for future employment while affirming a personal career goal.

“Kate was adept at embracing the coaching model and the principles and tools. It was clear that Kate developed in her communication and active listening skills along with the ability to create strong goals and gain perspective.”

– Host supervisor

**FACULTY OF MEDICINE,
HEALTH AND HUMAN
SCIENCES**

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Rachel Geha

Professional Learning in the Clinical Sciences (MEDI3401)
Department of Clinical Medicine, Macquarie University
Activity title: *Targeting brain arteriovenous malformations*

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Kayley Zielinski-Nicolson

Psychological Science: Putting Theory into Practice (PSYU3399)
Raise Foundation
Activity title: *Youth mentor*

WINNER

**Tristan Bonython, Claire Corbett, Gabrielle Hodgins,
Tanmay Kulkarni, Grace Waddingham**

Environmental Management Project (ENVS3463)
MidCoast Council

Activity title: *Water quality risk assessment of unsealed roads*

The group of five students were tasked with producing a report for the MidCoast Council, in relation to the water quality risk associated with unsealed roads.

Unable to travel to the location due to COVID-19 restrictions, the group conducted literature reviews and coordinated access to road data with the MidCoast Council, where the students developed a risk assessment system and priority matrix.

More than 300 sites were identified where unsealed roads crossed waterways, and these were ranked within ArcGIS Pro (geographic information system), which provided a priority matrix based on road sealing in relation to water quality, while also factoring in environment and economic considerations. A subsequent checklist tool was developed to aid with crossing site visits to ensure consistency for recording road conditions and streamline the information input to GIS.

The assessment panel were impressed with the large volumes of data analysed by the group, in addition to the use of software uncommon at university but common in the field. The activity gave the participants very strong development in their career preparedness.

The group gave a presentation to the council for which council staff were very impressed with the groups' professionalism and high quality of work. Council staff were keen for more work to be done on the data set and expansion of the project to other areas." – Unit Convenor

WINNER

**Joshua Abbott, Ruth Bai, James Blackie, Kaleigh Croser,
Marie Generakis, Flynn Hume, Boghos Keleshian, Nina Kettle,
Suraya Newell, William Nicholls, Isabella Robinson,
Darshna Shankar, Swastika Sharma, Karen Tawadros,
Dhruva Thorat, Jakeb Wilkinson**

Engaging the Community in Science (MOLS3002)
Macquarie University and the National Indigenous Science Education Program (NISEP)

Activity title: *Engaging the community in science*

This group of 16 students endeavoured to bring STEM-related content to primary and secondary school students in rural, Indigenous, refugee and hearing-impaired communities around Australia. Working alongside the NISEP, the students designed, organised and ran various STEM-related activities and events.

Due to the COVID-19 lockdowns, the activities originally planned to be held in person were reworked to create new activities and events to be held virtually. These events included a leadership training session for young Indigenous girls with the CSIRO Women in STEM program, and the creation of a Science of Sound module that was presented to more than 700 school students, many from rural communities. Contributing to all aspects of design, development and delivery, the group held events online for about 2,300 people across Australia.

The assessment panel highlighted both the impressive achievement of overcoming obstacles imposed due to COVID-19 and the ability to capture and develop a strong project around a large team of diverse individuals.

"To hear how much everybody has grown during the course of this unit has made me feel immensely proud. Proud of what we've done as a team, proud of how we've navigated the obstacles that were placed in front of us, and proud of the fact I was allowed to be a part of something that has had such a big impact on everyone's lives." – Student

HIGHLY COMMENDED

**Ariq Chowdhury, Jaden Dewan, Neharika Goyal, Nina Kettle,
Diksha Prasad, Amelia Thomas, Humayra Zaman**

Medical Sciences Capstone (BIOL3661)

Lifeblood

Activity title: *Partnering with industry group activity (report and video)*

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Durga Alagirisamy, Sanika Patki, Maddison Ronksley

Professional Practice for Mathematical Sciences (MATH3599)

Blackdog Institute

Activity title: *The Essential Network – a retrospective audit of engagement*

PACE FACULTY STUDENT PRIZE

WINNER

**Ned Bisset, Lennox Hemingway, Jordan Howard, Chad Mannering,
Nicholas Rahme**

Current Issues in Economics (ECON3081)

Tracy Yap Realty

Activity title: *An empirical inquiry into the impact of investor participation on house price growth in Australia*

Tracy Yap Realty asked this group of five students to research and communicate the key forces driving house price growth in Australia. Rather than studying well-researched indicators (eg unemployment or inflation), the group conducted research to investigate the role investors play in relation to owner-occupiers, and the relationship and effect on house prices.

Noting the lack of concrete measurements, the group constructed and validated the results of their Investment Credit Ratio (ICR), which acted as a barometer to measure the relative proportion of real estate investors to owner-occupiers in the Australian housing market through the lens of credit availability. The ICR was tested by members of the group and was found to uncover greater investor influence to be a significant indicator of future house price growth. The group presented their information to the partner organisation and furthered the impact of their innovative research through a dedicated website and Zoom information sessions.

The assessment panel noted the excellent self-reflection by each team member, and the clear career impact and employability skills obtained from the work-integrated learning experience.

“Looking back on my PACE experience now, it exceeded all my expectations. The project helped shape my career goals, and developed invaluable technical and soft skills, which I apply to my current role.” – Student

WINNER

**Olivia Bailey, Brayden Dilley, Matthew Fakhoury, Ben Martin,
James Purkiss**

Applied Leadership Project (MGMT3901)

Freshcare

Activity title: *Applied leadership industry project*

The group of five students were tasked with providing an industry value proposition for Freshcare, a quality and safety assurance provider for the fresh produce and wine grape industry. Unfamiliar with the industry, the group undertook structure, key stakeholder and industry research to inform their two-stage research methodology to ascertain the value of Freshcare to the wider industry, including a quantitative survey and face-to-face interviews with owner members and participating businesses.

Using the informed sector research and results of the stakeholder interviews, the students compiled a report that was presented to Freshcare’s Executive Board. The findings outlined the research-based value Freshcare provided to the industry and, specifically, the value Freshcare’s market participants derive from their programs. Extra business recommendations were provided and opened avenues for Freshcare in terms of future operating endeavours, industry impact and strategic developments.

The assessment panel spoke highly of the contribution and reflection by team members and the quality of their research. The tangible impact and outcomes for the partner organisation, including future opportunities, were highly valued.

“Overall, we believe this project has improved our employability as we have learnt how to engage with the two most important drivers of every business: clients and your team. Employers continuously repeat that technical skills can be learnt on the job, but to have robust interpersonal skills is difficult to teach without the experience similar to what we were exposed to.” – Student

HIGHLY COMMENDED

**Nathan Arcidiacono, Ned Bisset, Imogen Halvey,
William McClean, Nicholas Rahme**

Applied Leadership Project (MGMT3901)

Procter & Gamble

Activity title: *Brands as force for good*

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Jessica Croudace

Professional Practice Placement 1 (PROF2000)

Metcash Trading Limited

Activity title: *National accountant intern – Finance*

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Emma Frost

Student Leadership in Community Engagement (MQBS3000)

Nestle Australia

Activity title: *Nestle RAP internal communication and education*

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Thomas Simes

Professional Practice Placement 1 (PROF2000)

Leadenhall

Activity title: *Valuation intern*



PACE STUDENT LEADERSHIP PRIZE

The PACE Student Leadership Prize recognises a student who has demonstrated and or gained leadership skills through the completion of a work-integrated learning activity. Recipients showed outstanding leadership skills by managing or coordinating a group of students, and managing a project and or staff using excellent skills in areas such as communication, problem solving and relationship building.

WINNER

Taylor Hosken

Ethical Practice in Security Studies (PICT3020)

Corrective Services New South Wales

Activity title: *Implementation of drones in prison facilities report*

Taylor and her group were tasked with providing a report for Corrective Services New South Wales on the feasibility of implementing drones within the prison system. As the group leader, Taylor recognised the strengths, weaknesses and time commitments of her group members, before splitting them into sub-teams based on the key points identified for the success of the project. Taylor coordinated each sub-team with open communication, sensible and relevant deadlines, and specific research topics.

Taylor's initiative and problem-solving skills led group members to effectively use their time and meet the sponsors' specific research requests. The initiative and leadership displayed by Taylor consequentially led to extending the scope of research to encompass a holistic review of the impact of implementing drones in a prison facility, and exceeded the partner organisation's expectations of the overall project.

The assessment panel congratulated Taylor on the excellent leadership skills demonstrated throughout the project, including the establishment of solid communication pathways, the delegation of tasks, and accounting for the individual skills and availability of team members.

“She [Taylor] knew when to encourage individual team members to expand on issues and/or know when to speak to keep her team on track and focused. It would be reasonable to say that being able to logistically manage a project can be, at times, relatively straightforward, but little to nothing would be achieved if Taylor did not have the humanistic qualities to bring everyone along with her.” – Unit Convenor

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Kimberley Carter

Creative Industries Internship (MMCC3121)

Macquarie University

Activity title: *The Quarry – Issue 18*

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Lennox Hemingway

Current Issues in Economics (ECON3081)

Tracy Yap Realty

Activity title: *An empirical inquiry into the impact of investor participation on house growth in Australia*



PACE PARTNER PRIZE

The PACE Partner Prize recognises an industry, business or community partner who has made an outstanding contribution in working with Macquarie University to support work-integrated learning activities.

WINNER

BT Financial Group

Fouad Nagm

BT Financial Group, operating in the investment, superannuation and insurance wealth expertise industry, first engaged with the PACE program in Session 2, 2015 with its employee Fouad Nagm, when it offered internships to three Macquarie University Business students through the BT Panorama Program. Each year following has seen BT's commitment to PACE students increase, working with 112 students over the past seven years. BT and Fouad Nagm continue to engage with PACE students due to their joint commitment to providing PACE students with hands-on experience of the corporate world.

The assessment panel commended BT Financial Group on its commitment to the PACE program, specifically the organisation's willingness to offer students meaningful opportunities and feedback across multiple PACE units.

“His [Fouad's] commitment to giving students an insight into what the corporate world looks and feels like has enabled PACE students to experience for themselves how work gets done and how to deliver projects through teamwork.” – Staff nominator

WINNER

EY Business Solutions Pty Ltd

Matthew Dale

EY first engaged with the PACE program in Session 1, 2013. It was quick to see the potential of the program and leveraged it by sourcing talented graduates from their PACE unit, who were awarded the responsibility of host supervising the next group of PACE students. A cycle was created, where PACE alumni supervised and actively mentored students through their PACE experience, by providing them with projects to develop project management, teamwork and communication skills within a work experience environment. Since 2013, EY has engaged with 545 PACE students across the fields of law, statistics, actuarial, accounting, engineering and computing.

The assessment panel congratulates EY on the innovative and supportive structure for the PACE program, in addition to the cross-faculty programs and employability skills instilled in students throughout their projects.

“EY take a nurturing mentor role and provide support to teams and individuals beyond providing feedback and the standard client-team relationship. This symbiotic relationship is ideal for PACE and ensures a continuing valuable partner.” – Unit Convenor

WINNER

Faethm

Blair Hudson

Blair started his journey with PACE in 2013 as a PACE student himself; he later gained employment with his host organisation and volunteered to be the host supervisor for future PACE projects. Since that initial role, Blair has proven to be an exceptional host supervisor at numerous subsequent employers including EY, Macquarie Group and Pepper Money, and now at Faethm AI, a workforce-based data, insights and artificial intelligence company that has provided PACE opportunities to 41 students since 2020. The commitment from Blair to the PACE program is shown through his regular guest lectures to PACE students and whole classes on topics including Agile delivery, pitching projects and improving presentation skills – the latter proving to dramatically strengthen the quality of student presentations.

The assessment panel recognised the longstanding impact Blair has had on the PACE program across several organisations. Advocating for the program at Faethm, Blair deserves recognition as he continues to be supportive and dedicated to work-integrated learning opportunities.

“Blair is a strong advocate for PACE ... and it must be acknowledged that it is the passion and commitment of dedicated alumni like Blair that gives PACE students the opportunity and motivation to be successful.” – Staff nominator

WINNER

Stockland

Jacqui Low and Sarah Neilsen

The Stockland Planning Internship program grew out of a partnership between the Stockland Placemaking team and Macquarie staff in the discipline of Geography and Planning. Developing a 12 week internship opportunity for students to work on the \$2 billion M-Park project in Macquarie Park, PACE students were introduced to weekly stakeholder meetings in the areas of development, design, planning, sustainability, leasing, operations and marketing, in addition to gaining practical knowledge of interacting with external parties such as government, competitors and other consultants.

The assessment panel commended Stockland on the depth and structure of its PACE program, with strong student testimonials displaying the clear benefit of the program on their work-ready skills and industry engagement.

“The structure of the course and my informal discussions with stakeholders really helped to build upon my pre-existing passions, while also allowing me the latitude to branch out and explore new interests in the industry.” – PACE student

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Australian Suicide Prevention Foundation

John Hardy

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Mentoring Men

Emma Bromley



PACE STAFF PRIZE

The PACE Staff Prize recognises outstanding staff achievement in the delivery and or support of work-integrated learning activities.

WINNER

Associate Professor Kate Lloyd

Planning Experience (GEO4080)
Macquarie School of Social Sciences
Faculty of Arts

Associate Professor Kate Lloyd is Unit Convenor of GEO4080, a PACE unit within the Geography and Planning discipline. By engaging with students and imparting knowledge from her own planning and professional perspective, the perceived value of work-integrated learning placements through PACE highly motivated and encouraged students and increased the success of their placements. Highlighting and facilitating discussion with individual students and encouraging reflection on their professional experience have allowed students to strive for goals they often thought were outside of their reach in a professional scope.

The assessment panel commended Associate Professor Kate Lloyd on her dedication and ability to encourage and support work-integrated learning activities for individual students as well as the wider unit cohort.

“[Lloyd] has been highly motivating and encouraging, especially being the first professional role for a majority of my cohort ... She takes time, effort and sincerely pushes her students to achieve their goals.” – Student nominator

WINNER

Bonnie Ng

Business Process Support Officer
Operations Team
Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching)

Bonnie Ng was instrumental in creating and implementing a process utilising the new Talent module within the CareerHub platform. Ng collaborated with the wider Employability and Graduate Success team, PACE team members and external providers to shape and build a superior student and partner experience. This ensured a seamless and value-added experience for MQBS PACE students and partners into the future.

The assessment panel congratulated Bonnie Ng on her ability to bridge the gap between technology and business, while simultaneously building an innovative and scalable program to support students, staff and host organisations.

“[Ng] has made an exceptional contribution by improving efficiency, increasing capacity and streamlining the PACE experience for all stakeholders.”
– Staff nominator

WINNER

Betty Opacic

PACE and Employability Officer
Employability and Graduate Success
Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching)

Betty Opacic drew on her wealth of experience to assist in creating a streamlined process to manage and review a high volume of students progressing through their PACE journey in CareerHub. A user-friendly and comprehensive process was created, from application through to job offer. By providing subsequent partner and student communications to guide users through the process, Opacic embedded the programs' use to increase industry engagement with PACE, and enabled a stable and exceptional experience of the student employability journey.

The assessment panel noted Betty Opacic's commitment to process improvement and the deep consideration she has for the needs of all work-integrated learning stakeholders – students, partners and academics.

“Opacic’s commitment to the student and partner experience has ensured this implementation will be a lasting improvement for partners, students and staff.”
– Staff nominator

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Associate Professor Wayne Warburton

Psychological Science: Putting Theory into Practice (PSYU3399)
School of Psychological Sciences
Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Dr Miriam Williams

Planning Experience (GEOP4080)
Macquarie School of Social Sciences
Faculty of Arts



“I am very proud to personally support the PACE program through the awarding of the annual Professor Judyth Sachs PACE Prizes and I warmly congratulate all of the 2021 winners.”

Judyth Sachs

Emeritus Professor



“PACE, the University’s flagship work-integrated learning program, continues to go from strength to strength. With almost 7000 students completing PACE activities with more than 1000 partners in 2021, the program is a central part of our commitment to building and enhancing the employability of all Macquarie students. A chance to road-test career plans, PACE allows students to apply technical and transferrable skills as well as develop confidence for a successful transition to the workplace. It is a pleasure to be part of the annual PACE Prizes as we celebrate high-quality experiences for students and partners.”

Kylie Ebert

Director,
Employability and Graduate Success



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