COMP3850: Computing Industry Project
SESSION 1 & 2 - 90 PACE ACTIVITY HOURS

KEY PACE PROCESSES AND TIMELINES

- Enhance your employability by engaging with a partner organisation on a mutually beneficial activity
- Put theoretical knowledge to practice, reflect on your studies, clarify your career goals, and network with professionals
- No matter what stage you are at in life or career, this unit contributes to professional pursuits

PACE Timelines (see Unit Guide for academic dates)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key dates</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At the end of your 2nd year</td>
<td>Plan ahead and prepare for enrolment in COMP3850 to maximise outcomes</td>
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<tr>
<td>By week 1</td>
<td>PACE activity options shared: indicate your preference so that teams and activities can be finalised</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>• Reflect on your PACE activity and curriculum in preparation for assessments</td>
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<td>• Engage with your partner organisation as agreed by you and your host supervisor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Manage and plan carefully so you can meet all commitments</td>
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EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUS COMP3850 ACTIVITIES

- **Local Government**: Students created a walking app of the local area now available on iTunes.
- **Finance company**: Students built a prototype system for customer self-service using conversational artificial intelligence and natural language processing.
- **Sports organisation**: The students developed a proof of concept app which will enable the transfer from paper based data collection sheets to an intuitive application.
- **Security Organisation**: Students performed penetration testing on the organisation's mobile apps and platform to identify verification and human activity.
- **AI Startup**: Students developed a prototype to streamline the end-to-end development of workforce datasets.

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HOW DOES THE UNIT WORK?

PACE units combine theory-based curriculum with practical experience (PACE activity) to enhance your employability (i.e. being work and life ready in increasingly complex and evolving circumstances). In COMP3850 you will work in a self-managed team to develop an IT-based solution in collaboration with a partner organisation (also known as project sponsor). You must undertake the unit’s curriculum and the PACE activity in order to be eligible to complete COMP3850.

Well in advance check the [Handbook](#) for information about COMP3850, including pre-reqs and any Special Approval requirements. It can also help to look at previous [Unit Guides](#).

HOW DO I FIND MY PACE ACTIVITY?

As early as possible, you will be presented with a number of available COMP3850 PACE activities. You will then have the opportunity to indicate a preference for the one(s) you would like to complete. Using this information, the Unit Convenor will finalise teams and the allocation of students to partner organisations and activities. Note: you must receive formal approval before you can start your PACE activity.

**COMP3850 STUDENT TESTIMONIAL**

“Students will gain first-hand experience working in an agile Systems Development Life Cycle (SDLC) involving producing project documentation and developing a system that has constrained deadlines. I guarantee that this is one of the best experiences you will have and you must be able to work hard and communicate with the client as well as behave ethically.”

RICHARD MAROON, BABSC, MAJOR IN BUSINESS INFORMATION SYSTEMS
IS RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL) POSSIBLE?

As per the University's RPL Policy, if you can evidence prior achievement of the Academic Senate's criteria for PACE units then RPL for PACE might be possible. Evidence occurs through: having completed a PACE-like unit elsewhere, or submission of a portfolio demonstrating that all 4 essential PACE elements (as specified in the Policy) have been met.

Acknowledgement of past or current employment alone is not sufficient for this purpose; however, evidence could include demonstration of you having engaged in an experiential learning activity (as part of that employment) that:

- was mutually beneficial, and
- met or exceeded the minimum hours standard set in Senate's Criteria for the Accreditation of PACE units and activities, and
- enabled the integration of theory with practice, and
- was embedded in and supported by a reflective practice framework.

For more information, refer to the PACE-specific detail in the University’s RPL Policy and if you want to apply go here.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

IPARTICIPATE

Once enrolled, you will have access to a system called ‘iParticipate’ which enables acknowledgement of your PACE Roles and Responsibilities (through the Student Undertaking form), provision of emergency contacts, identification of which activity you would like to complete, and information on background/health checks (see below). You will also use this system to preference the projects you would like to work on prior to week 1 of session.

BACKGROUND/HEALTH CHECKS

Some PACE activities require background/health checks before you commence such as Working With Children Check, National Police Check etc. Which checks you require will depend on your partner organisation and activity. Checks can take time to complete so it is important to prepare as early as possible.

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

PACE activities are available to all undergraduate Macquarie students regardless of personal circumstances. Students are encouraged to disclose and discuss any personal circumstances which may impact their PACE Activity before activity allocation is finalised.

For more information refer to the PACE Activity Management Procedure and the Student Disability Support Policy.

Reasonable adjustments video

PACE AND ETHICAL PRACTICE

Ethical practice is a key component of PACE. It involves negotiating the ethical complexities in which you are working, engaging in an ethical manner and establishing ethical partnerships. Students should not undertake a PACE activity where a conflict of interest might exist. Please advise your Unit Convenor as soon as any ethical concerns arise.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Your PACE activity might result in the creation of intellectual property (IP). IP is the application of the mind to develop something new or original and can exist in various forms, such as an invention, brand, design, software program or artistic creation.

Discuss IP with your partner organisation before your PACE activity starts. IP generated by students with substantial use of partner organisation resources and input (e.g. the initial problem for which a solution is being developed) will normally be required to be assigned to the partner organisation.

If you are uncertain about your rights, speak with your Unit Convenor. The University cannot provide you with IP legal advice in respect of IP creation, ownership or rights of use and recommends you obtain independent legal advice before signing an IP agreement. The University has developed a draft agreement that you and partners could use to assign IP and this is available through your Unit Convenor.

For further advice you can contact the Office of Commercialisation and Innovation by emailing commercialisation@mq.edu.au.

PACEWISE

Re-visit PACEWISE to find out more about:

- Hints to present yourself professionally
- The Judyth Sachs Prize
- PACE Equity and Travel grants
- Your Roles and Responsibilities
- Work Health and Safety

COMP3850 PARTNER TESTIMONIAL

"PACE provides us with a platform to develop proof of concepts with students that we would never have capacity to do internally. The students generate unique insights, ideas, and approaches to the problems we give them, on our side our own staff get experience managing small teams and facilitating ideation/development. Personally, I have employed several PACE students at GenesisCare and EY which speaks volumes to the benefits of the course. I can’t think of a better unit for students to get industry experience while providing sponsors with insights and experience at the same time."

NICK REYNOLDS, GENESIS CARE

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions specific to the academic requirements of COMP3850 contact the Unit Convenor.

For all other enquiries about COMP3850, contact PACE:

T: +61 (2) 9850 6842
E: pace.science@mq.edu.au