FACULTY OF SCIENCE
AND ENGINEERING

MACQUARIE
University

COMP355 ISYS358 ISYS355 Information Technology Project

Unit Guide for Partners

Session 1 (Feb to July)
Session 2 (Aug to Nov)

Groups of students work in teams to produce prototype and proof of concept apps, websites and CRMs and other IT solutions

Partners engage in this unit to identify talent, workforce development and recruitment, engage with Macquarie University, build business cases and trial new and innovative solutions to their IT business challenges.

What is COMP355/ISYS358/ISYS355?

Partner organisations work with two student groups, acting as IT consultancy teams, on a non-mission critical IT solution. Students of mixed IT skills, including software development, and business information systems, use the agile methodology to ensure that the project will meet the partners' requirements and meet deadlines.

To find out more you can take a look at our video about a past project with the Wilderness Society.

Partner requirements:

- Partners must provide host supervisor who can commit to regular meetings and communicate with the two groups of students throughout the development of the project
- Partners must attend the partner induction night at the beginning of session and the end of session presentation night.
- Partners are invited to complete a short survey after each deliverable is due, commenting on what they have received from students.
- We ask partners to avoid submitting a mission critical business project.
- All partners must complete the online activity statement which formalises the placement prior to the student commencing the project.
- Any IP agreement is to be negotiated between the students and the partner organisation and detailed as part of the activity statement.

How does it work?

Partners submit a project to the Faculty of Science and Engineering PACE office which is then assessed for its suitability to meet the learning outcomes of the unit.

Once a project is accepted students are asked to preference the project they would like to work on most from the list of projects. Preferencing helps ensure students have a genuine interest in the project. Partners are then allocated two teams of students to work on their project by the unit convenors.

At the partner induction night (held in week 1 in each session) the partner will be given detailed information about the process as well as meet their student groups. Partners should bring along any supporting documentation to share with the students as well as be prepared to discuss their project further with the students.

Student groups generally work on-campus in order to develop the technology solution. However, students also appreciate the opportunity to visit the partner's workplace.

As projects are generally developed on campus the project manager of each group will communicate with the partner via email, and Skype. It is recommended that partners communicate with their groups at least once a week.

At the end of the session partners are invited to see their student groups' presentations and are welcome to stay and watch other presentations.

Partners are welcome to contact the PACE office at any time if they require assistance during the project.

Session timelines and deliverables

S1	S2	Student Responsibility	Partner Responsibility
Early Mar	Early Aug	Attend student induction and meet client	Attend partner induction and present project to students
Mid Mar	Mid Aug	Feasibility study	Provide feedback to groups
Late Mar	Late Aug	Project plan and requirements document	Provide feedback on requirements documents to groups
Early May	Early Oct	Deliver Increment 1: Updated Project Plan, Updated Requirements Document, plus Design, Test Cases, Prototype.	Provide feedback on Prototype to groups
Late May	Late Oct	Deliver Increment 2: Updated Project Plan, Updated Requirements Document, plus Design, Test Cases, Prototype	Provide feedback on Prototype to groups
Early Jun	Early Nov	Present Project, Deliver: RTM, deployment guide and final report	Attend presentation
By end June	By end Nov	Delivery of project to partner	Approve final delivered product and provide individual mark out of 8 to convenor.

The partner experience:

Seeing bright eyed university students solving interesting projects. Producing great output (that's usable to our business) and functioning as a proxy job interview.
Nick Reynolds (EYC3)

The best aspects of the PACE experience is meeting great young people - gaining innovative ideas from them.
Rebecca Deep (Productivity Bootcamp)

Examples of Past Activities:

- **Pittwater Council:** Students created the 'Walking Pittwater' app now available on iTunes.
- **Take3 for the Sea (T34C):** Students developed a proof-of concept mobile application for audit and measurement of plastic pollutants using visual recognition.
- **Ernst & Young:** Students worked with EYC3 (EY's APAC data and analytics capability) to design and build a client system tool for analytics involving geolocation data.
- **KaRa Institute:** The students developed a proof of concept app which will enable the transfer from paper based data collection sheets to an intuitive application.
- **Pepper:** Students built a prototype system for customer self-service using conversational artificial intelligence and natural language processing.
- **Surf Life Saving Australia:** The students developed a proof of concept app which will enable the transfer from paper based data collection sheets to an intuitive application.

The student experience:

"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 – Ba Sc (Business Information Systems)

Would you like more information about PACE?

If you would like further information about PACE at Macquarie University please visit PACE

For further information on the roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders please view our Governance and Guidelines.

To find out more about PACE units within the Faculty of Science and Engineering download our flyer

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