



## Murdoch University: Career Connect Newsletter

JUNE 2016

### LATEST NEWS

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Murdoch student team takes out PwC Private Clients Business Innovation Challenge in Perth.



From left: Brian Ho, David Giang, Gavin Tan

This year's PwC Business Innovation Challenge in Perth was won by current Murdoch students Brian Ho (Accounting and Human Resource Management), David Giang (Finance and Banking) and Gavin Tan (Cyber Forensics and MasterClass). To promote the competition this year, Jill Svanberg posted the following on [LinkedIn](#).

*"Applying the theory you learn at University to real life experiences is the most valuable way to develop professionally and make yourself more employable. That's why at PwC we develop opportunities for current students to use real skills to solve real client problems. Private Clients Business Innovation Challenge gives students the chance to work in small teams, solve genuine client problems and put their best foot forward in front of some of the industry's best and brightest."*

Students in their penultimate (second last) or final year of a Business or STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) degree were eligible to apply. A total of 19 teams representing each of the Perth based universities participated in the initial Challenge Day at the PwC Perth office, in March this year. Students were tasked with developing an innovative solution to a small business client problem. They were also offered a day of coaching and mentoring from PwC staff. Matt Hobbs (PwC Senior Consultant and Murdoch Graduate) mentored the Murdoch team.

On April 11, the Murdoch team along with selected teams from UWA, Curtin, ECU and Notre Dame presented their solutions to PwC's client and a panel of PwC staff. The Murdoch team was announced the overall winner at the end of the evening. Gavin, David

and Brian share a cash prize and were also fast-tracked through the recruitment process to interview stage for either Vacation Work or a Graduate Program with PwC Australia.

David graciously posted the following on LinkedIn regarding their win.  
*“Yesterday my team managed to secure a win in the 2016 PwC Private Clients Business Innovation Challenge. It has been an incredible experience and I want to give a big thanks to everyone who helped out a long the way, and PwC for this amazing opportunity. An extra big thanks to incredible team mates Brian Ho and Gavin Tan. An extra special thanks to our mentor Matt Hobbs for his priceless guidance during the journey.”* Daniel Duncalf (Director at PwC) subsequently offered his congratulations in response and said, *“... it was a great presentation”*.

*Well done gentlemen!*



## Final year IT Student shares his Internship Experience with BankWest



I am a final year university student at Murdoch University studying a double major in Computer Science and Games Technology. I always struggled to find good grades, fighting a constant battle for a pass mark. With the clouds of gloom hanging over me, several recurring thoughts ran through my head earlier this year. *“Who would take on a student who struggles to pass over someone with good grades?” “I don’t have any work experience. What could I possibly offer them?”* and finally *“Why would anyone hire a kid with Autism?”* Believe it or not, that last one hit me harder than I thought it would. Sure those internship opportunities to work on big data or build an engine sounded appealing, but I knew I didn’t begin to have the skills needed.

Then one day the clouds suddenly opened. I heard about an internship for Bankwest, specifically targeting students with Autism. All my life I had to dodge the stigma of Autism and pretend to be “a normal human being” but I couldn’t live my life unemployed or do something I didn’t have a passion for. I figured I had nothing to lose by applying. When the day of the interview came I was extremely nervous, however the whole process was very informal. They sat us on computers, involved us in a workshop and got to know each candidate on a personal level. They called to say I was in a few weeks later.

Bankwest were fantastic in training and on boarding me into their organisation. After a few days something incredible dawned on me. With Bankwest, I didn’t have to pretend anymore. I could be myself without fear or judgement of any stigma. In essence, I could bring all of myself to work. In the time I have spent at Bankwest, I have been made to feel part of a great big family. It’s warm, welcoming and incredibly friendly. Part of the Bankwest brand is “to make banking easier”. Well for me it was “to make working easier” and they have most definitely done just that. I have worked with two fantastic teams on two very different IT projects. I have also developed a great appreciation and passion for software testing which I hope to continue in the future.

None of this would have been possible without the fantastic support of everyone at Bankwest, the [Autism Academy for Software Quality Assurance](#) and the [Australian Computer Society Foundation](#). This has been my journey. All be it a bit rocky, Bankwest

has given me that yellow brick road I have been searching for. Autism shouldn't be seen as a disability. It should be seen as an ability. An ability for critical thinking and attention to detail. An ability to be loyal and commit to a project to the very end. This is what we can offer to employers.

*Thank you so much for sharing your great story Michael. Good to see you have found your place in such a positive work environment. All the very best with your future career in IT.*

**NOTE: BankWest is currently recruiting for their 2017 Graduate Programs - see Jobs Corner below.**



## How to showcase your employability skills: The Big Idea Competition

**2016 The Big Idea**  
**National University Team Competition**  
[www.thebigidea.org.au](http://www.thebigidea.org.au)

**Develop and showcase your employability skills**  
**ALL undergrad students eligible – second semester event**

**Express your interest now!**  
**Email the Coordinator:**  
**Nino Sekyere-Boakye**  
[n.sekyere-boakye@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:n.sekyere-boakye@murdoch.edu.au)

PwC logo with text 'Proud Sponsor' above it.

Murdoch University logo with text 'Murdoch UNIVERSITY'.

Careers and Employment Centre logo with text 'Careers and Employment Centre'.

The Big Issue (a not-for-profit organisation that helps to change the lives of homeless, marginalised and disadvantaged people) is hosting [The Big Idea](#) competition again this year, together with support from consulting firm PwC. The Big Idea invites current undergraduate students to work in small teams to develop a concept and business plan for a social enterprise, helping others in need. The competition is open to all undergraduate students at participating universities across Australia (including Murdoch University). It provides a great opportunity for you to develop and demonstrate key employability skills to future employers including:

- collaborative team work (across disciplines);
- creative problem solving ability and innovation;
- effective communication / presentation skills;
- project management and;
- self-awareness / understanding of own strengths and weaknesses.

Lecturer, Mr Nino Sekyere-Boakye will be supporting the Murdoch teams through the process this year and is keen for undergraduate students from ALL disciplines to get involved. To find out more and register your interest, email Mr Sekyere-Boake (e: [N.Sekyere-Boakye@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:N.Sekyere-Boakye@murdoch.edu.au)) today!

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS - THEY WANT TO DEVELOP YOUR CAREER

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Professional Associations are a collective voice for a particular industry. They often regulate and guide the practice of professionals within the field, supporting their on-going career development. There are many advantages to joining a professional association in your discipline whilst still a student. They offer members:

- access to industry networking / professional development events;
- on-line resources;
- mentoring opportunities;
- awards, scholarships and bursaries;
- up-to-date information on industry trends / developments through forums, social media and newsletters.

Professional Associations also often provide student membership at a reduced cost (or for free in some cases) and offer student ambassador programs or chapters / committees for emerging professionals, ideal for students to get involved in.

Below are some specific examples of support to students offered by Professional Associations.

Australian Computer Society (ACS): [Foundation](#) (offering career support and industry placements).

Australian Human Resources Institute of Australia (AHRI): [Mentoring Program](#).

Australian Psychology Society (APS): [Psychology and allied health scholarships and grants](#)

Certified Practising Accountants (CPA) Australia: [Career Expo](#)

Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand: [Student Affiliate](#).

Engineers Australia: [Student Roadmap](#) (Webinar career support throughout your student experience).

Exercise & Sports Science Australia (ESSA): [free insurance with student membership](#).

Public Relations Institute of Australia (PRIA): [Young Guns](#) committee.

Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI): [Post graduate Student Travel Bursary](#).

Out for Australia: [Mentoring Program assisting LGBTIQ students and recent graduates](#).

The Law Society of WA: [Law Week](#)

NOTE: If you hear of any other career development opportunities for students, offered by a Professional Association in your discipline, feel free to pass onto the Careers and Employment Team.

## WHAT WOULD ADD VALUE TO YOUR DEGREE AND SET YOU APART? TELL US AND YOU COULD WIN A \$100 VISA GIFT CARD

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The Murdoch Careers and Employment team, in partnership with Murdoch Guild are looking to better understand you and your career development needs. We want to know:

- what you want out of your university experience that will add value to your degree;
- what your current engagement with University or Guild co-curricular and extra-curricular programs has been to date and;
- what employability skills you would like to develop and how.

We are keen to know what would work best for you in order to improve our programs to better suit your needs. To do this, all Murdoch students are invited to participate in a short 2-5 minute survey. Complete our survey and you could win a \$100 Visa gift card. If you would like to participate click [here](#).

The results will directly support the development of better programs for Murdoch students. If you have any questions regarding the survey, feel free to contact Thomas Stewart from Murdoch Guild by phone (08) 9360 6307 or email [T.Stewart@the-guild.com.au](mailto:T.Stewart@the-guild.com.au).

## CAREERCONNECT EVENTS

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### 1) College of Professional Psychology (COPP) National Registration Program - Information Session

Find out about Psychologist registration (via the 4 plus 2 internship or 5 plus 1 internship pathway) and the national program offered by the College of Professional Psychology (COPP). No obligation to sign up but a great way to get to know your career pathway options as a Psychology student and have your questions answered, such as:

- What are the pathways to registration?
- What are the advantages of doing the program at COPP?
- How can I get registered without doing a Masters Program?
- How can I make sure I meet all of AHPRA's requirements?

ALL Psychology students and graduates are welcome to attend. Bookings required.

When: Friday, June 17, 4.00pm - 6.00pm

Where: Room - SS2.051, South Street Campus, Murdoch University

[Register Here](#)

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## JOBS CORNER

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### Final year and Graduate Opportunities

2017 Bankwest Graduate Programs (Leaders, Bus. and Risk) (Aust. Wide) (Multi-discipline) [Find out more](#)

WA Attorney General's Office Graduate (Law) Training Program (recruitment pool) [Find out more](#)

WA Office of Auditor General Graduate (Accounting) Financial Auditors (recruitment pool) [Find out more](#)

### Student Opportunities

EdgyX, Casual Children's Workshop Facilitators (Robotics/Programming/Eng./Drama) (Perth) [Find out more](#)

Newmont, Student Vac Work (Environ Sc./Eng. /Elect Eng. / Process Control Eng.) (Perth) [Find out more](#)

WA Dept. of Child Protection and Family Support, Residential Care Worker (recruitment pool) [Find out more](#)

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## Useful Links

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[How to look good in Skype Interviews \(video\)](#)

[10 Habits that will ensure Career Success](#)

[Graduating? Clean up your social media accounts](#)

I've screened over 300 people in the last four months - there are two mistakes job applicants are making

Seven reasons to start a business while at college/university

Careers and Employment  
Centre

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[careers@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:careers@murdoch.edu.au)

WEB:  
[careers.murdoch.edu.au](http://careers.murdoch.edu.au)



"Like" our [Facebook page](#) for the latest industry opportunities, career development events and job search tips.



Extend your network, get advice, join the Murdoch e-Mentoring Network Group on [LinkedIn](#).



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