Ms Gail Bourne
Faculty of Information Technology
Monash University
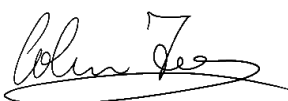
30 October 2018

Dear Gail,

Monash's IT arm, eSolutions, has had the privilege of participating in the FIT Industry Experience Project over the past three years. As industry mentors my colleagues and I have seen firsthand the benefits the program provides to the students, resulting in one graduate of the program taking employment within our IT Security team.

Over the course of the program's relatively short time period the students get exposure to an accurate approximation of real world work experience. They are thrown together into agile teams made of people with differing skill sets to develop a software product with a deliberately broad brief in a defined short time frame. They must deal with deadlines, shifting scope, understanding user's needs, and a sharp introduction to real world problems that have no black and white clear cut answers. They go through the classic team phases of forming, norming and storming, and along the way discovering how best to collaborate effectively.

The program culminates in an expo showcasing the student's work to their peers, other mentors and the all-important judging panel. It affords the students the opportunity to hone their presentation skills where we often encourage them to work an "elevator pitch".

A part of the program that often garners positive feedback from the students is the site visit they make to their industry mentor's workplace. We give them opportunity to see firsthand that the things they are learning are used in real world workplaces and that every day we face the same challenges that the program sets out for them. It often during this time that we take the opportunity to talk to them about the kinds of things that we as employers are looking for and how they can turn what they've learnt during the program to their advantage when seeking their first job.

Yours Sincerely,

Colin Fee
IT Operations Manager, Technology Service
eSolutions