Co-operative Education

Pippa Connolly
Associate Professor – Practice
COOP Academic Lead
Faculty of Engineering
How do I fit into the picture?

- Chartered Engineer – Civil Engineer
- Studied in the UK – Meng Architectural engineering
- 27 years experience in Industry – UK, Singapore, New Zealand, Australia
- 4 years at Monash
- Lecture and coordinate the Capstone unit for Civil Engineering
- Academic Lead Co-Op
What is Co-op?

- [https://www.monash.edu/engineering/coop](https://www.monash.edu/engineering/coop)

  Professor Elizabeth Croft’s video
What is Co-op?

• Integrates academic studies with work experience, usually alternate periods of work and study
• A three-way partnership between the student, the institution and the employer
• Not the same as Work Integrated Learning
• Co-op Students:
  – are engaged in productive work, not merely observing
  – receive remuneration for the work performed
  – have their progress monitored by the institution, but are supervised and evaluated by the employer
  – undertake a minimum number of work terms during their degree
Why Co-op?

Students

• Promotes continuous learning: integrates academic study and meaningful work-based learning
• Mandatory employability skills training
  • CVs, applications, LinkedIn
  • Leadership, teamwork, communication
  • Ethical and professional practice
  • Mock interviews and networking
• Provides an enriched experience:
  – explore different potential careers and understand what it is to be a working engineer
  – able to apply themselves to their studies in a more mature and practical way
  – develop relevant skills and graduate ‘job-ready’
Why Co-op?

Employers

- Employers as co-educators: able to grow and develop students over an extended period of time
- Full responsibility for selection of students
- Effective recruitment tool for longer term prospects
- Flexible and cost effective method of managing fluctuating business needs
- Provided with a pipeline of well-prepared, top talent and experienced, motivated and job-ready graduates
OUR VALUED INDUSTRY PARTNERS

We appreciate the industries that support our Monash Engineering Co-operative Education Program.
Co-op at Monash Engineering

• **Co-op program**
  – Must achieve minimum academic standard and have completed at least 2yrs of study
  – Work terms listed on academic transcript but not for academic credit
  – No tuition fees

• **Employment**
  – 3-6 month roles advertised to Co-op students
  – Students apply
  – Selection of students is the responsibility of the employer

• **International Students**
  – Are eligible to participate in the 3 month over Summer opportunities
“The team in the Flinders Gate Project from John Holland has been very attentive towards my co-op internship experience and development. What I truly appreciate is the amount of information and attention that goes into every detail involved in managing the construction project. Thousands upon thousands of drawings, where every nut and bolt has a name. With changes made to drawings, deadlines to keep track, touring of construction sites and new challenges to overcome occurring every day. It made for a very dynamic workplace. You get a sense of pride when you walk past the building knowing you've helped build it in your own small way.

In short, my Co-op program with John Holland has been a very enriching experience.

Seii Chen
Wei-Chi Huang, Monash Engineering student (left) and Adrian Pacheco, Project Engineer.

Wei-Chi completed his Co-op internship with Metro Trains.
PILOT 2018-2019

• 21 Intern placements
• 17 out of the 21 continued employment with the organisation.
• Semester 1 – 7 placements
Any Questions?