

Vacation Placement Quotations

2008-2009 API Bursary Vacation Placements

1. Kerry Clarkson @ Powerlink Queensland

2008 bursary holder

Without realising it I have gone from knowing next to nothing about the workings of a substation to solid basis for further study. The main objective of vacation student program at Powerlink Queensland is to teach the students as much as possible and I would suggest that they have been very successful in this case.

I believe the main thing I will take away from this placement is a hunger for knowledge and to finish my degree so I can truly get stuck into some challenging engineering problems.

2. Robert Stevenson @ Transend Networks

2008 bursary holder

When the power system in Melbourne collapsed in the heat I was able to ask experts in all areas of the business why such events occur and what options existed for fixing them or building more sustainable solutions. I had very open access to Transend's management, engineers, technical staff and business development teams and was privileged to be given many expert guided tours of Tasmania's transmission system.

3. Declan Atkinson @ Verve Energy

2008 bursary holder

I found working at Verve Energy to be a very rewarding experience. By working in the power station I was able to gain an in depth view and understanding of power engineering which would be hard to achieve from reading a book or website. This was due to being able to physically interact with the workings of the station, and always having a supervisor or work colleague nearby to consult if I needed an explanation to aid my understanding.

4. Justin Clarke @ ABB Australia Pty Ltd

2007 bursary holder

When the power system in Melbourne collapsed in the heat I was able to ask experts in all areas of Before my internship, I had very little knowledge of the power industry. As I progressed, I began to see how the various areas of the industry combine to build and maintain Australia's power supply. It was only by seeing areas of the power industry first hand that I could grasp its interconnected nature and how dynamic the power industry really is.

5. Tianya Li @ ENERGEX Ltd

2008 bursary holder

In general, my first exposure to the power industry was an educational, enjoyable, practical, and eye-opening experience. Knowing that my projects solved real-world problems and improved life of others, I obtained much job satisfaction and appreciated the essential role of the power industry in modern society.

This experience instigated purpose for my university studies and reinforced my choice of career as a power engineer.

6. Alex Hugall @ PB Power

2008 bursary holder

Working within the power industry, I found a complexity that the normal person most probably would never see. It amazed me as to the scale of works and the necessity for complete diligence in design as to ensure not only the proper operation of the industry, but also to try to allow for possible future demand and problems.

7. Christine Poon @ Energy Australia

2007 bursary holder

Another preconception I had prior to this placement was that efficiency could be easily maximised by automating more processes, via computer/aerial monitoring or mobile communication as opposed to physical travelling to sites. However, the complexity of certain jobs highlighted the reverse need, i.e. training more staff to overcome the graduate employment shortfall faced by the power industry, and subsequent strains on the existing workforce.

8. Stephen Vidas @ AREVA T&D

2006 bursary holder

I was for the first time exposed to the manufacturing side of the Power Industry, and was able to observe the complexity of the manufacturing process, with a particular emphasis on testing. I was also witness to the challenges involved in organising a team and managing a project under tight time restrictions. This allowed me to advance both my technical knowledge, and also my knowledge of managerial and business processes. After this placement, I feel significantly more comfortable in a Power Engineering workplace because I am confident my knowledge has advanced beyond the basic level.

9. Zaher Charrouf @ TransGrid

2007 bursary holder

My learning experience sky rocketed dramatically and exponentially at a very fast rate. Believe it or not, before joining TransGrid in CPD-Projects, I was surprised by the amount of knowledge I didn't know about and how fast I learned to adapt in this type of environment in the workplace. I was astonished throughout my time of only three months in the workplace, to find out how much I learnt and the amount of professional skills and the knowledge I gained in such little time. It just proves to me that an Engineering Degree doesn't mean you know everything. It's just getting us Electrical Engineering student's prepared for the reality of the workforce and to be able to professionally and competently learn all the necessary knowledge and skills required to succeed in the workplace.

10. Timothy Nakhla @ Connell Wagner

2008 bursary holder

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Connell Wagner. I am now interested to further my knowledge of power systems protection. During my brief stay I saw how valuable the consultant is in the power engineering industry.

My experience at Connell Wagner has helped solidify my choice of engineering as a career and I am certain that my future is in the power field. Talking to different engineers has helped with the elective choices I have to make in the coming year at university. All in all it was a great learning experience and I feel that it has placed me ahead of others in my course due to the experience gained over the summer break.

11. Rizwan Raza @ TransGrid

2008 bursary holder

I have been thoroughly impressed at the intellectually engaging environment and the emphasis placed on the development of undergraduate knowledge and understanding. TransGrid has budgeted for time and expenses to equip me with on-site practical experience, and educate me on the state transmission network on both a technical and organizational level. I have seen first hand the many engineering challenges TransGrid continually faces. They are always resolved with safety most highly prioritised followed by ensuring network reliability and economic efficiency. I highly value my 2008/2009 vocational employment.

12. Guang Guan @ Ergon Energy

2007 bursary holder

I feel the placement has been extremely beneficial because of its exposure to many different and varied technologies. I was able to use the knowledge acquired in thermodynamics, fluid mechanics and heat transfer in many practical applications. In addition to this I was also exposed to the limits and possibilities of renewable energy sources in the power industry now and in the future.

13. Damien Rua @ Stanwell Corporation

2007 bursary holder

Working at Stanwell Power Station was a very valuable experience not only for the technical knowledge gained, but also for the opportunity it gave me to move out of home and experience the power engineering lifestyle. After being at Stanwell Power Station, I am looking forward to finishing my degree and working full-time in the industry for several years before returning to university part-time to complete post-graduate studies in power engineering.

14. Matthew Sands @ PB Power

2007 bursary holder

As a result of the work undertaken at PB I was exposed to and involved in 'cutting edge' projects which are being developed as solutions to the world-wide problems associated with climate change. Through working on these projects I gained a further understanding of the vital role engineers' play in addressing climate change issues and developing future viable solutions to address this global problem. Due to the interesting work I performed and the importance of the development of the technologies represented in these projects my desire to pursue a career in the power industry has been cemented.