

Overview: RMIT University Pilot

The RMIT University pilot brought together students from the College of Business human resources, marketing and accounting disciplines in the final year 'Future of Work' unit, to research and develop project reports and recommendations for three different industry and community partners. A Partnered Project Planning Workshop initiated the collaborative process to:

- Identify overarching learning goals
- Identify stakeholder benefits of being involved in the project
- Consider potential problems or opportunities that could inform and scope the project
- Negotiate expected project outcomes and draft the project briefs, and
- Establish a shared understanding of the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders.

The workshop included students who had recently completed the unit, the industry/community partners and the academic staff involved in teaching the Future of Work unit. The industry/community partners included:

- The **National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU)**, Victoria. This project looked at fostering promotion opportunities for groups of under-represented academics in successful career pathway outcomes.
- **JobCo**. This not-for-profit, community-based disability service focuses on assisting people with mental health issues on their recovery journey. The project considered how JobCo can maintain a great culture and ensure staff are equipped to provide great service, when staff spend minimal time in the office with other colleagues.
- **Specialisterne**. This global organisation specialises in working with employers who are seeking to diversify their workforce and assisting them to recruit talented autistic individuals with suitable skills. This project considered a range of ideas on how to influence and encourage companies to embrace neurodiversity in the workplace on a large scale.

Over a 6 week period the students completing this capstone elective, worked in interdisciplinary teams to investigate future work trends and prepare a report and comprehensive recommendations around a real industry problem or opportunity. The 'Predicting the future of work – industry challenge' included a hackathon group pitch strategy where students unpacked and refined their industry research project and presented their approach back to the industry partners. The resulting research project reports provided viable solutions and potential pathways to address the industry and community partners' challenges.

