THESIS MENTORING

The role of the industry mentor is to partner with the academic supervisor, in advising the student group regarding the direction and value of their research topic. Assessment of the student groups includes the minutes of a meeting with their industry mentor and reflection on how this meeting guided the direction of the investigation. This meeting is to take place at the beginning of the research project. The academic supervisor then assesses the components of the research report prepared and submitted to deadlines during the research. The industry mentor assesses the poster presented at the awards night and the final research report subsequently submitted.

Who can be an industry mentor?
Almost anyone. Ideally a mentor has ..........
• A sense of curiosity
• Experience conducting minor research (ie. Data gathering and analysis)
• Good written communication skills
• Expertise in identifying industry relevant issues
• Access to data sources
• Energy and enthusiasm

Who will the mentor supervise?
As far as possible the mentor will be given a group of students from the same professional field.

How much time will the mentor be committing to?
Mentors will be asked to meet with each research group at the start of the research project, and then to assess the poster and written report at the end of the research. Each project kick off meeting is expected to take about one hour. Assessment of the posters occurs during the PCFM Awards night in October, between 5pm and 7pm. Assessment of each written report may take between 2 and 3 hours. The total expected time commitment is 15 hours over 4 months. Mentors may chose to provide additional guidance during the research, but this is at their discretion.

How will the mentor be supported during assessment?
The mentor will be asked to assist with assessment of the poster and the final written thesis. The posters will be assessed during the School's Awards night. Guidelines for assessing the posters will be given to each mentor, detailing the criteria expected to be addressed by each poster. Each criteria will be given a maximum mark. It is recommended that mentors assess each poster in...
about 10 minutes and students are not required to give any verbal presentation but mentors may ask questions. The written report will be submitted subsequent to the Awards Night. Each report will be sent to the mentor with an accompanying marking guide again showing which criteria to pay attention to, suggested content of each chapter and minimum requirements. Mentors are able to comment against each criteria before allocating a mark. Mentors may send further questions about assessment to the course coordinator, or information sessions may be arranged.

What are the benefits of being a mentor?

• An opportunity to contribute to your profession
• An opportunity to engage directly with professionals of the future
• Contribute to professional knowledge
• Build intra-industry networks
• Gain new experience in a supervisory role
• Derive satisfaction from nurturing future professionals
• A chance to see first hand how the students work which may assist in future recruitment

The benefits of an industry mentor for students are:

• More relevant research undertaken, dealing with current and emerging industry issues
• Assistance providing data sources
• Strengthened integration between student’s learning and work
• The provision of student feedback from the industry perspective
• The validation of students’ learning through a partnership between students, academics and industry
• Students undertake and are assessed on a research project which allows them to learn, apply and demonstrate their professional or vocational practice
• Students interact with industry as clients/practitioners
• Student interactions with their industry mentor, and the learning context, provide a distinctive source of feedback that underpins their learning.