

# Career Central's Guide to the STEM Careers Expo 2022



UNIVERSITY  
OF WOLLONGONG  
AUSTRALIA

## WHAT IS THE STEM CAREERS EXPO?

The UOW STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Careers Expo is a FREE annual event bringing together university students and employers from the region, within Australia and overseas. Employers will be available to tell you all about their recruitment programs.

Employers are there with one purpose – to interact with students who are potential employees. This is your chance to build a networking relationship with important career contacts.

## WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?

A careers expo is the perfect opportunity to network with prospective employers and gain some great networking and self-marketing skills.

The Expo also gives you the opportunity to:

- Gain first-hand information about an employer, the structure and operation of the organisation and recruitment processes.
- Collect application information and learn how to improve your chances of gaining employment.
- Explore career opportunities and work out what you are looking for from an employer.
- Make a good first impression before applying for a position.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The STEM Careers Expo is open to all students in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences and the Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health.

Students are encouraged to attend and learn valuable information on how to prepare for graduate and vacation programs.

Employers may provide information on:

- Graduate programs and entry level roles
- Work experience
- Internships
- Scholarships and Cadetships
- Mentoring programs plus more

Employer representatives can provide you with useful suggestions on improving your employability

skills and tips on enhancing your chances of getting a job.

## DO I NEED TO DO ANYTHING TO PREPARE?

To make sure you get the most out of the Virtual STEM Careers Expo here are several tips we highly recommend:

## REGISTER FOR THE EVENT AND SAVE THE DATE

Don't miss the event! Register for the [STEM Expo 2022](#) and be sure to record it in your diary or e-calendar and set a reminder. Do whatever works best for you.

## DO YOUR RESEARCH

Review the list of the [exhibiting employers](#) prior to the expo. Read the employer profiles, decide which ones you want to meet and prepare a few questions to ask. Show that you are genuinely interested and serious about obtaining employment and ensure that your questions show you have done your research on the organisation. They'll be looking out for students who are well prepared and familiar with their organisation and graduate programs.

We have some examples questions listed below.

## ON THE DAY OF THE EXPO

- Have a notepad and pen close by to write notes. After you talk to each employer write down important information you learned that may be helpful in your application.
- Make a positive first impression. The first thing the employer sees is what you're wearing. No need for a suit – business casual is the way to go.
- Make the most of the expo by talking to as many exhibitors as possible, including the companies you may not have heard of before.
- Be conscious of their time. Once you have all your questions answered, thank them for their time and leave the video room to allow other students to ask their questions.
- Listen to what the employer says, especially for information which could be of assistance when writing your application.
- When talking with employer representatives introduce yourself confidently by smiling, having a positive attitude, giving your 30 second

introduction and asking your prepared questions.

- Make sure you're polite and friendly. You may be interviewed by these representatives in the future.

### THINGS TO AVOID

- Assume they won't consider you because your discipline is not in line with their industry. Employers are often open to various disciplines despite the industry they're in.

### QUESTIONS FOR EXHIBITORS

1. What does their recruitment process involve (Closing dates, online applications, assessment centres, commencement date, etc.)?
2. What is the best way to get more detailed information regarding their organisation?
3. What are the key things you look for in employees (academic results, personal attributes, extra-curricular activities and work experience etc.)?
4. I know XYZ about your organisation but can you provide me with more information?
5. Do you mind telling me what it is you like about working for this organisation?
6. How is the program structured? (duration, rotations, locations, etc.)
7. What sort of professional development does your organisation offer (mentoring, shadowing, short courses etc.)?
8. How would you describe the culture of the organisation?
9. What differentiates your organisation from others?
10. What do you view as the benefits and challenges of working for this organisation?
11. In terms of career advancement, what are some of the typical career paths?
12. What are the growth prospects for this industry in the future?
13. How often do previous graduate program recruits move into permanent roles with your organisation at the completion of the program?

### 14. What roles might people move in to?

This is not an interview, but these people may interview you in a month or so, so be polite and professional.

### TIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- Check which organisations are hiring international students prior to attending the expo.
- If you are unsure, ask about the company's policy on hiring international students and VISA restrictions.
- Questions regarding sponsorship and obtaining Permanent Residency are best discussed at another time, not at the expo.
- Be confident in your communication and be sure to prepare your 30 second introduction.
- Ask about recruitment processes, as these can be different to those practiced in your home country.
- Careers expos are a great opportunity to network with Australian employers; keep records of discussions and representative contact details, and be ready to make the most of the experience.

### AFTER THE EXPO

- Read the information you have collected.
- Make a decision on the programs you will apply for.
- Make a note of closing dates.
- Initiate any further communication requested from an employer, such as a LinkedIn connection.
- Take note of the conversations and contacts you have made. This is a great start in building your networks.
- Utilise Careers Central services and [book a chat with a Career Consultant](#) – we can help with your job application, interview techniques and preparing you for assessment centres and psychometric testing.

