



The value of students

Some clever local businesses have been accessing tertiary students through Holmesglen TAFE and Monash University to boost staffing resources while providing work placement opportunities to the students. Taking on students through the various work placement programs can bring new thinking, add crucial resources for teams to develop projects, and give businesses the chance to provide their own staff with leadership and mentoring experience. **Read on** to see how local small business iBuild, is providing opportunities for students and reaping the rewards.

Interns contribute to iBuild's success

So impressed is iBuild with interns from Holmesglen Institute and Monash University that it hires as many as it can from the 30 interns that work at iBuild each year.

With its head office located at the Eastern Innovation Business Centre (EIBC) in Mulgrave, iBuild designs and builds pre-fabricated kit and modular homes and buildings that are sold around Australia, South East Asia and the Pacific.

Established in 2014, iBuild has a globally recognised reputation for innovation, which has facilitated growth so that it is now a leading Approved Tender Supplier of prefabricated buildings to the Victoria Government and United Nations.

Dr Jackson Yin, Managing Director of iBuild, started the company's internship program early in 2016 and hasn't looked back with ten interns undertaking placements each semester.

The students, who gain valuable real-world experience from the placement, do not receive any payment from the business but do bring their unique skills, capabilities and enthusiasm to the role. In return students receive credits for their course.

"We started with a couple of marketing and accounting interns and it's just snowballed. They are a fantastic resource for our business and we have since added interns with disciplines from engineering, business, finance, HR and most recently IT," Jackson said.

The majority of iBuild's interns are based at its EIBC head office with some engineering interns regularly visiting its Campbellfield factory.

One of iBuild's first interns was Jayden Savannah, who completed a Bachelor of Business majoring in Marketing at Holmesglen. Most placements run for between 2-3 days per week during a semester.



iBuild Managing Director, Dr Jackson Yin with City of Monash Mayor, Cr Paul Klisaris, Eastern Innovation Centre CEO Danielle Storey and Board Chair Prof Darrell Mahoney

Successful interns given employment

Following completion of his placement in May 2017, Jayden stayed on for an extra month and was then given a permanent position. Many others have also received permanent employment at iBuild. Indicative of his value to iBuild, Jayden was recently promoted to Marketing Project Manager.

“I now supervise six or seven interns at a time who are graduating in numerous disciplines,” said Jayden.

“While it may sound onerous, it isn’t. I’ve created a program so that the students are ready to go within one week.

“A majority of the interns are in their final year of study and bring really valuable skills and attributes to the job.”

One of iBuild’s most recent interns is Helen Ly who brought retail experience with her having been involved in high end jewellery sales where she engaged people with discretionary purchases.

“I really liked the placement at iBuild. I was assigned to conduct onshore and offshore market research to look for potential markets as well as increase our target audiences in the residential, commercial and government sectors,” Helen said.

“It was intense and also challenging because I hadn’t done this type of work before, but with Jayden as my supervisor, I was able to achieve daily tasks that really made a difference to the company.

“This real business experience, combined with my marketing knowledge and sales skills, will greatly assist me in finding the part-time job I’m looking for as an administrative or marketing assistant.”



Holmesglen student, Helen Ly with supervising mentor Jayden Savannah

Mayor wants more Monash businesses to join intern program

Monash Mayor, Cr Paul Klisaris, said iBuild is to be commended for its contribution to the business community.

“It’s obvious that interns add value to any business. But it is a two-way street. You have to provide them with meaningful work so they gain extra skills that prepare them for the workforce.

“I encourage more Monash businesses to follow iBuild’s example. Even if they take one or two interns per semester, this will make a huge difference to the quality of graduate looking to join the workforce in Monash.”

Learn how to [host a Monash University intern](#) and read more about the [Work Integrated Learning program](#).

Further information:
www.i-build.com.au
www.eibc.net.au