

# Summer Open Lab

## 2021/22 Information

The Summer Open Lab (SOL) is a programme for students working on summer projects and internships with companies in Tauranga and the Western Bay of Plenty.

SOL has been developed by Priority One, the economic development organisation for the region, and is delivered in collaboration with local businesses, the University of Waikato and Callaghan Innovation, with three aims:

- **For Students:** to provide a great learning experience in the region, through professional and career development, and through building connections with peers from different host companies, disciplines and universities;
- **For Businesses:** to support them to provide pastoral care and professional development for students, especially during the busy summer months
- **For our Region:** to encourage more students to do summer projects here, more businesses to do more projects with students, and to celebrate and showcase some of the amazing innovation in Tauranga and the Western Bay.

### How SOL works

1. SOL comprises a series of weekly workshops that run over the summer (November through to February), in parallel with summer projects being completed by university students.
2. The workshop programme is focussed on the theme of leading and managing R&D related innovation. Each week covers one aspect of this and consists of a mix of industry speakers and interactive workshop components. The provisional programme for 2021/22 is listed below (see page 3).
3. SOL is open to any student doing a summer project or internship for a company located in Tauranga and the Western Bay of Plenty that is:
  - a. Funded by Callaghan Innovation R&D Experience Grants; and/or
  - b. A member of Priority One
4. There's no cash cost. All we ask is that businesses register their interest with Priority One ([shane@priorityone.co.nz](mailto:shane@priorityone.co.nz)). Students attending do need permission from their host organisation.
5. The only 'payment' we require from participating companies is that they provide a speaker for one of our weekly sessions (this means we have an awesome line up of people for students to talk to!)
6. The students' priority is their work for their host company. SOL has no formal status; there are no credits or marks, so students have the freedom not to attend if they have other commitments (e.g. fieldwork, meetings, project deadlines).

- a. We don't *expect* students to make every session. We know people can get busy, have fieldwork, might not always be able to create the time. We hope most students come to most sessions, because they and their companies have a great time. And we hope this provides an easy way for companies to deliver a high standard of professional development for their students.
7. Participating companies are welcome to send other staff along to sessions as professional development.
8. SOL concludes with our Summer Innovation Celebration, which is fast becoming a highlight of the business events calendar. This event is open to the broader community and is an opportunity for Priority One to showcase the work done by students and companies in our region and acknowledge the importance of this.

In previous years, participating companies have included Bluelab, GPS-It, PlantTech Robotics Plus, Swiped On, Virtuo, University of Waikato and Zespri.

### **How SOL is resourced**

1. As noted above, SOL is free for eligible companies; the only requirement is that they contribute at least one staff member to speak at one of the weekly sessions.
2. SOL is delivered through collaboration by several parties, who come together to make this happen:
  - a. Priority One, who provide administration and coordination, project management, and programme design, and fund the refreshments provided.
  - b. The University of Waikato, who provide space for the sessions in their Tauranga Campus free of charge
  - c. Callaghan Innovation, who fund R&D experience grants, communicate the initiative to their clients and allow participation of experience grant recipients
  - d. The participating companies, who allow the students to be part of this and provide guest speakers.
3. The programme of workshops has been designed by Priority One in consultation with industry. It delivers an overview of some of the key skills and capabilities required to lead and manage R&D related innovation in organisations.
4. SOL's programme has been developed over several years, with 2021/22 being the fifth iteration. We are confident that it delivers on our three goals of great student experience, supporting companies and celebrating innovation. However, we remain committed to being able to change quickly to take advantage of specific opportunities or different priorities. So, expect the programme to evolve over time.

### **Contact Information**

For more information about SOL please contact Shane Stuart ([shane@priorityone.co.nz](mailto:shane@priorityone.co.nz)).

## Provisional Programme 2021/22

Sessions are 3PM to 5PM on Wednesdays

We provide snacks on arrival and some food and refreshments at 5PM.

All sessions are at the University of Waikato, Durham St Tauranga, unless otherwise indicated.

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Topic</b>  |
|-------------|---|
| 24 Nov      | Session One: Welcome to Tauranga (a local's guide to summer in Tga) |
| 01 Dec      | Session Two: Design Thinking  |
| 08 Dec      | Session Three: Ten Types of Innovation                              |
| 15 Dec      | Session Four: Project Management                                    |
| Break       |   |
| 12 Jan      | Informal Session. Mid-project catch-up.                             |
| 19 Jan      | Session Five: Presentation Skills                                   |
| 26 Jan      | Session Six: Leadership, Teams and Culture                          |
| 02 Feb      | Session Seven: Entrepreneurship and Commercialisation               |
| 09 Feb      | Session Eight: Summer Innovation Celebration (Mount Surf Club).     |