Master of Data Science and Innovation (MDSI) Data Science Internships

Data science – the career of the 21st century

Data science is becoming one of the most in demand skills in the workforce. **In 2020, data science was one of the top fifteen emerging jobs,**[1] according to business networking giant LinkedIn.

Data is, unequivocally, one of the most valuable commodities in the professional landscape. And organisations will need, increasingly, employees with the capabilities to extract, structure, analyse and draw meaningful insights for business decision-making.

The Master of Data Science and Innovation (MDSI) provides learners with adaptability, resilience, and creative thinking skills in a data science context. This postgraduate course is transdisciplinary in nature and develops graduates who are able to source, frame, analyse, visualise, and communicate business outcomes that generate creative data and human-centred design decisions.

In 2020, James Milligan, the global head of technology at Hays – an international recruitment organisation, stated "data science is the new corporate currency, as advancing digitisation sweeps every horizontal and vertical market the world over. The impact on the data science sector is far-reaching and, as a result, a range of new roles and skills sets are in demand."[2]

1 The Future of Data Science, James Cook University 2022.
2 Is Data Science a Good Career Choice in 2022 & Beyond?, Medium 2022.

So, why a data science intern?

Data science internships in the MDSI are designed to give students an opportunity to apply the research informed, cutting-edge practice in data science from MDSI in a workplace setting, experiencing how data science is practiced in a business or research environment.

For organisations, exploring data in meaningful ways is the key to unlocking and understanding complex problems, an opportunity for business growth and a better understanding of the customer, client, or consumer.
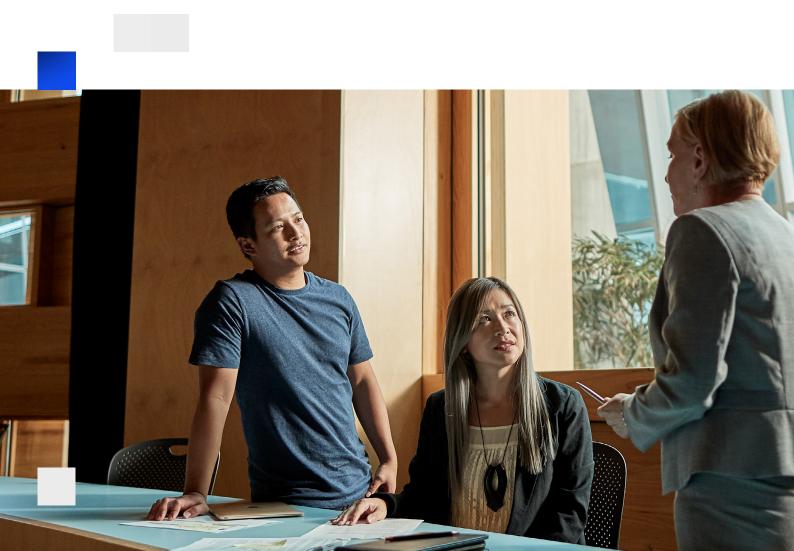
Data science internships are an opportunity for host organisations looking to unlock the potential of their data and access the talent pipeline of future data science practitioners.

Designing a data science internship

Data science internships can take many shapes and forms, dependant on the demands of your business and the skills in demand. Here are some suggestions to inspire the endless opportunities of hosting a data science intern:

– **Research:** host an intern to assist or lead a research project.
– **Analytic:** interns can assist your team with applying analytical problem solving on a given data set, identifying new or missed opportunities.
– **Emerging practice:** bring in an intern to apply the newest and emerging data science practices on your current operations and improve organisational capabilities.
– **Project:** host multiple data science interns, inviting them to work on a data set and contribute a transdisciplinary perspective.

All internships can be undertaken by individual or a team of MDSI students where a host organisation finds appropriate.

Internship requirements

MDSI students are required to complete a minimum of between 100 and 200 hours, depending on what internship subject they choose.

Depending on the workload of the project, the internship can be taken by enrolling in one of the following internship subjects:

– **Data science internship A** (6 credit points) are a minimum requirement of 100-120 hours.
– **Data science internship B** (6 credit points) are a minimum requirement of 100-120 hours.
– **Data science internship C** (8 credit points) are a minimum requirement of 140-160 hours.

If you would like to provide a longer opportunity suited to our internship subjects, students can opt to combine internship A & B as part of their coursework (minimum 200 hrs).

Interns must work as part of a professional team for their internship, being supervised by a nominated internship supervisor from within the host organisation.

Internship dates

All internship subjects run in both Autumn and Spring semesters each year.

Autumn intake: 19 February to 17 May 2024

Spring intake: 5 August to 1 November 2024

Paid vs unpaid internships

Payment is not mandatory for internships taken for course credit, however, we encourage that where possible organisations offer paid placements, as this allows the opportunity to be accessible to the widest pool of masters-level students. It also;

– offers both students and employers more flexibility in duration,
– attracts greater student interest and higher calibre of candidates, and
– creates an environment where students feel valued in the workplace.

Paid internships are considered employment and so any workplace agreement, insurance, remuneration and responsibilities are to be negotiated with the student directly.

If **unpaid**, UTS will provide an electronic Student Vocational Placement Agreement. This agreement needs to be completed before the internship starts for UTS insurance to be in place (personal accident and public liability insurance up to the value of $5 million). For more information on the legalities of unpaid internships, visit the Fair Work website**.**

Preparing to host an intern

Check out our online resources for internship hosts for next steps, including how to advertise an internship opportunity and advice on hosting a data science intern.

Contact TD School
E: TDSchoolPartnerships@uts.edu.au

TD School (Transdisciplinary School)

A central, pan-university School bringing transdisciplinarity to UTS teaching/learning, research and industry engagement.