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Microsoft Student Accelerator

# Student Handbook

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# WELCOME

You have already taken the first step towards joining New Zealand's innovative technology industry. The Microsoft Student Accelerator programme works with students and organisations to provide industry relevant training and give you the opportunity to put your skills to practice with a work placement over the summer at some of New Zealand's leading IT companies. This is an opportunity for you to build experience outside of your study, get a competitive edge when you graduate, build connections with the industry and start your career with innovation at its core.

To give you some statistics, we trained over 2000 students in 2016 and offered 120 of these students work placement with 34 organisations. More than 20% of students received full time offers with their organisation and more work part time. Over 80% of students found the programme to accelerate their careers and opportunities.

This handbook is your one stop guide and provides specific details about the programme. The programme consists of three phases. You can choose to take part in the whole programme or part of it – no strings attached. The phases are tailored to give you flexibility around your other commitments while maintaining some structure. Many students take part just to get the highly regarded, industry relevant technical training that only Microsoft provides. The time commitment will vary depending on your level of existing skill and how quickly you can pick up the tools and platforms we teach.

The MSA Programme is run by students, for students with the support of Microsoft New Zealand. The MSA Team look forward to helping you achieve your goals!

Thanks,  
MSA Team



# TIMELINE

1

## BASIC TRAINING | APR - SEP

We will teach you the basic skills of development including source control, basic web / cloud development and cross platform app development.

Personal motivation and passion to learn is the goal for this training!

2

## ADVANCED TRAINING | SEP - NOV

You'll have a basic understanding of how software development works and have demonstrated it through basic training. Now we'll take you to the next level and prepare you for work placement. You'll work with advanced technologies like Cognitive Services to build cool, leading edge applications that companies are dreaming off. You will also get soft skills training and a project based assessment where you can show off your creativity and skill.

3

## WORK PLACEMENT | DEC - FEB

You will work with other students at an innovative company.

*Please note employer selection is provided only in the major cities.*

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## IMAGINE CUP & SHOWCASE | JAN – APR 2018

If you've got the tenacity to build the next big app, we'll help you achieve it through the Microsoft Imagine Cup – the world's largest and most prestigious student tech competition.

# Your Toolkit

Throughout the MSA Programme, there will be a few things you'll need to use frequently. Please look at the following resources and be familiar with using them.

MSA Website: <https://msa.ms>

Submission Portal: <http://submit.msa.ms>

MSA Helpdesk: [nzedu@microsoft.com](mailto:nzedu@microsoft.com)



[MSA Drive](#)

This is where all powerpoints, resources, recordings and module / project information will be uploaded

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[MSA GitHub](#)

This is where all code and technical instructions will be posted.

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[Microsoft Imagine](#)

Microsoft Imagine gives students free access to a bunch of tools and technologies. This is where you'll get access to Microsoft Azure which you'll use extensively.

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[Microsoft Azure Portal](#)

This is the portal to the Microsoft Azure cloud. You will use this a lot during training.

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[Visual Studio Community](#)

This is the development environment that you will use within the MSA Programme.

# STUDENTS

Students taking part in the Microsoft Student Accelerator come from a variety of backgrounds and have diverse skills. MSA students have been learning C# and Microsoft technologies through the Microsoft Virtual Academy, in-person workshops and online training provided by our Student Partners.



## Students are expected to:

- Actively learn new technologies and develop their skills
- Complete the MSA training programme to a good standard
- Commit to their employer over the summer break
- Work with their team to reach positive outcomes on their project over summer

# EMPLOYER EXPECTATIONS

To ensure all participants gain value in the MSA programme, we have worked with past employers to set expectations for employers to ensure you get the best opportunities.



## Organisations taking part in MSA will

- Provide a group of 3 students with an innovative project to work on as a team over the 10 week period
- Involve students in company activities where possible, and help them gain insight on how your business works
- Assign them a dedicated mentor
- Offer them professional development opportunities
- Provide an opportunity for them to work in-house or remotely where possible, with regular check-ins
- Employers would be expected to have students in house for a minimum of 50% of the placement, this is to help students get exposure to business and work environment

## MSA TESTIMONIALS

### DATACOM

DATACOM

Datacom have been proud supporters of the Microsoft Imagine Cup and the Microsoft Student Accelerator. As a founding employer, Datacom has taken part in MSA since 2013. Past interns include current Datacom employees and multiple winners of the Microsoft Imagine Cup. Datacom is once again taking part in the Microsoft Student Accelerator to find great student talent.



"Through the Microsoft Student Accelerator Program students have the potential to gain first-hand experience working at Datacom and to participate and contribute to real-world projects and solutions - all the time being mentored and guided by our best technicians, consultants and leaders.

I thoroughly recommend the Microsoft Student Accelerator Program to students and prospective employers alike."

– Kerry Topp, General Manager, Digital Transformation and Innovation, Datacom

"Through the MSA programme I had the privilege of interning at Datacom during the summer. During the internship, I engaged with new technologies in a 'real' project alongside the Mobile Innovation team.

MSA has helped me develop the technical skills and soft skills needed in the IT industry. I am currently working as a software developer at Datacom and absolutely love the job, the culture and the people. "

– Samantha Le, Datacom Employee and ex MSA Student



## GENESIS ENERGY

Genesis Energy has taken part in MSA for the last three years. Over this time, MSA students have worked across the business on innovative projects that drive Genesis Energy's vision. Students have been involved with innovation Hackathons and have contributed to Genesis's technology toolkit. The success of the programme for Genesis Energy is reflected with them taking on all six students they worked with in 2016/17.



"We look forward to the new teams every year and pick projects that enable the students to apply their technical skills to solve real life business problems. This year we took in two teams who applied their software development skills to prototype new applications for our Solar Monitoring and Bottled Gas products. The teams also took part in our inaugural Hackathon innovation event where they successfully used the machine Learning, artificial Intelligence and bot technologies to provide innovative solutions."

John Perez, Digital Development Manager – Genesis Energy

"The 10 week experience at Genesis Energy was fantastic. I could put what I learnt in MSA to practice and I learned a lot of new skills during my time there. Everyone at Genesis Energy including our mentor was friendly and supportive to us and that made the programme very enjoyable. At the end of the 10 weeks, our team delivered several projects, which I'm immensely proud of. It's awesome to know that we could make a difference to the company."

- Junhyuk Lim, Genesis Energy Employee and ex MSA Student





## WESTPAC

Westpac was very fortunate to be able to be involved in the 2016/2017 MSA programme. We "adopted" five student teams that delivered real solutions to the business that ranged from small line of business applications using LightSwitch and .NET to some sophisticated SharePoint-based solutions.



"The students came on board with great energy, incredible desire to learn and eager to deliver real value to their Westpac business users. They all had a fantastic "can do attitude". Everything was possible, they showed great initiative and they were eager to do what it took to meet the high expectations we had for their work. They were treated as part of the team and they reciprocated with excellent work."

Paulo Rocha – Principal Enterprise Architect, Westpac

"Work placement at Westpac was an absolutely amazing experience. I got to work alongside the product owners to develop their project from idea to reality. This work placement really helped me get a sense of what it is like working in the IT industry, and it helped me further develop my professional skills. Having the application I was working on deployed to all Westpac staff topped it all off."

- Andrew Lyall, MSA Student @ Westpac



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **Are there any fees to take part in this programme?**

No. Microsoft does not charge any party any fees to take part.

## **What is the weekly time expectation for students?**

Students with basic familiarity with technology should be able to complete the programme, by spending 4 hours a week.

## **Can I select my placement group?**

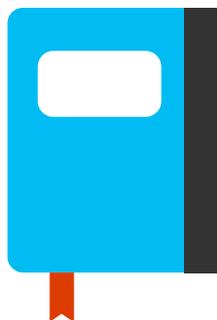
Microsoft will provide you the opportunity to pick your group preferences before placement. We aim to place students of similar ability in groups.

## **Who owns the intellectual property of the projects?**

The company/employer retains all intellectual property for the work your team does with the employer. We encourage you to talk to your employer to discuss ways to highlight the work you've done in CVs or portfolios.

## **COMPENSATION**

It is Microsoft's intention to provide students the opportunity to learn and develop skills in New Zealand's fast paced IT industry. Work placement provides students the opportunity to put skills into practice and gain further skills – similar to an apprenticeship. Microsoft encourages all employers to compensate students appropriately, and we recommend students discuss this with their respective placement organisation.



Ready to get accelerated?



**REGISTER NOW AT**

**[msa.ms/join](https://msa.ms/join)**

You'll will be provided with updates starting early April.

If you have any questions please email us at [nzedu@microsoft.com](mailto:nzedu@microsoft.com)

