Advance Queensland is a $180 million initiative designed to create the knowledge-based jobs of the future, drive productivity improvements and build on our natural advantages.

About the program
The PhD Industry Experience program supports Advance Queensland by encouraging businesses and universities to collaborate in setting up short-term, unpaid business placements for PhD students to build their work-readiness and increase the competitiveness of the businesses.

The Queensland Government sees a highly skilled workforce as essential to the growth of an economy fuelled by new ideas. Many postgraduate researchers have the energy, high-level skills and ideas needed for innovation, but lack opportunities to show their worth to industry.

Innovation can also add real value to businesses and/or the wider community, but many businesses lack the time and resources to create or apply new ideas.

If you’re keen to bring new ideas and skills into a project to inspire innovation, the Queensland Government PhD Industry Experience program could be your answer. Under the program, universities and businesses match Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students with business projects, to add an outside perspective.

Following the program, participating businesses and universities may consider entering longer-term, funded collaborations to increase workforce skills and create new jobs for the future knowledge economy, such as the Advance Queensland Knowledge Transfer Partnerships program.

Benefits
For businesses:
• new ideas and fresh perspectives
• access to university skills and technical expertise
• new talent for future employment opportunities
• help in advancing innovative projects.

For PhD students:
• a chance to demonstrate their skills to prospective employers
• opportunities to expand practical workplace knowledge outside a university setting and understand industry needs
• a network of new work colleagues, professional referees and industry contacts outside university
• a challenging business project to help develop core work and commercially focussed skills.

How to apply
Businesses: Email completed project descriptions to advancequeensland@dsiti.qld.gov.au or phone 13 74 68 to express interest by 30 September 2015.

PhD students: Apply online on the Advance Queensland websiteqld.gov.au/advanceqld. View the program guidelines and projects on offer from 8 October 2015. Applications close at 5.00 pm on 29 October 2015.

Further information
Web: qld.gov.au/advanceqld
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Facebook: AdvanceQueensland
Twitter: @AdvanceQld
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