



IGS JOB SHADOWING PROGRAM

HOW TO KICKSTART YOUR CAREER IN GEOSYNTHETICS



INTRODUCTION

IGS JOB SHADOWING PROGRAM
HOW TO KICKSTART YOUR CAREER IN GEOSYNTHETICS



On-the-job learning can be a **lifechanging** opportunity. It puts a young person at the **heart of the action** in a real workplace, supercharges their subject knowledge beyond the classroom, and offers access to key contacts that could make the difference to a **future career**. Meanwhile, host companies benefit from meeting **exciting new talent** with minimum fuss.

The IGS Young Members Committee (YMC) has always been about supporting the career ambitions of our young members and that's why we're proud to announce the expansion of our Job Shadowing Program.

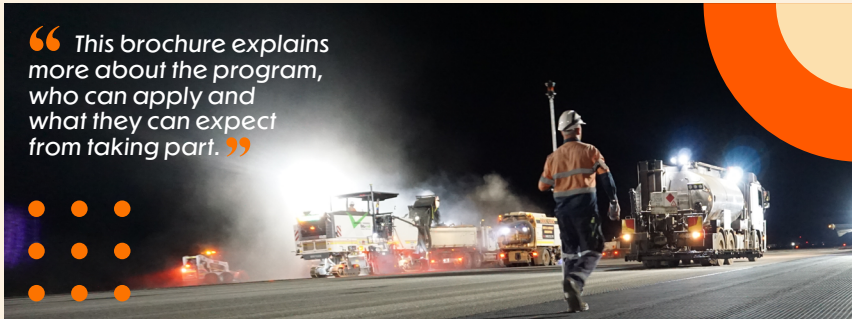
The scheme pairs students with geosynthetics businesses for an in-person or virtual experience shadowing an engineering professional. Our pilot schemes have had great feedback and now, thanks to a grant from the **IGS Foundation** we can better support the rollout more widely across chapters.

This brochure explains more about the program, who can apply and what they can expect from taking part. Plus, read about the experiences of participants from our pilot schemes to see why it's an opportunity students and businesses can't afford to miss.



Preston Kendall
IGS Young Members
Committee

“ This brochure explains more about the program, who can apply and what they can expect from taking part. ”



WHAT IS THE IGS JOB SHADOWING PROGRAM?

IGS JOB SHADOWING PROGRAM
HOW TO KICKSTART YOUR CAREER IN GEOSYNTHETICS



The IGS Job Shadowing scheme **connects IGS Young Members with geosynthetics companies**, providing an in-person or virtual session for student engineers to **learn from geosynthetics professionals** in a **real-world** working environment.

Why is the YMC doing this?

The IGS YMC is always looking to add value to its subscribers so were keen to facilitate potentially life-changing job shadowing opportunities more comprehensively across chapters.

Following a student competition in IGS Brazil in 2020, a survey of prizewinners revealed that work experience opportunities were the most desirable awards for students. Working with the event's corporate sponsors, the chapter set up a series of virtual events including a Q&A with company representatives and a discussion on industry trends.

IGS Brazil continues to develop its job shadowing opportunities, with IGS Australasia's own scheme also underway. And now, thanks to a grant from the IGS Foundation, a charitable body set up in 2020 to support the IGS's educational initiatives, the YMC is now better placed to support more chapters to implement a program tailored for their region.

Who can apply?

The IGS Job Shadowing Program is looking for enthusiastic, motivated, ambitious students keen to enrich their study with on-the-job experience and training. Applicants must be an IGS Young Member and meet one of the following criteria:

- Be in full-time undergraduate education
- Studying for a Masters degree or doctorate
- Carrying out post-graduate research
- Completed one of the above degrees no more than one year prior

Businesses do not need to be IGS corporate members to take part in their first facilitation but must become members if they wish to host programs in subsequent years.

Students and companies will be matched at the discretion of the chapter but student applicants can express a preference of type of company and department they wish to gain experience in.

How does it work?

Chapters will pair eligible students with their corporate hosts. Chapters are free to implement the program how they wish with the YMC available to advise on all aspects including structure, frequency, duration, program management and promotion.

However, at a minimum, students should expect a day in person shadowing an engineer working with geosynthetics, or have a

virtual two-hour meeting with them. The virtual option could include a short presentation by the host company, a Q&A and virtual site tour.

Lunch and other hosting costs are eligible for reimbursement up to a set amount agreed with the chapter. No lunch is required if the session is online.

Host companies are also invited to offer enhanced opportunities such as a week's paid work experience or extended placements, which can be discussed with the chapter representative as appropriate.

On completion of their job shadowing, students must submit a short report to their chapter about their experience.

When does the program launch?

Now! Prepare your application and get in contact with your local chapter.

“ Student membership of the IGS is free. Click [here](#) for more information ”

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

IGS JOB SHADOWING PROGRAM
HOW TO KICKSTART YOUR CAREER IN GEOSYNTHETICS



The IGS Job Shadowing Program is an incredible chance for early-stage engineers to **develop their careers** and **network** as well as **build life skills and confidence**. As a corporate host, businesses get to **connect** with some of the **industry's best and brightest talent** and **give something back** to the geosynthetics community.

Students



Stand out from the competition



Networking opportunities



Boost technical knowledge



Prepare for employment



Real-world picture of life in your field



Gain experience and references for your résumé

Corporates



Give something back



Access new talent and ideas



Integrate with your existing student schemes



Strengthen engagement with the IGS



Invest in the next generation



A REWARDING OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS AND BUSINESSES

IGS JOB SHADOWING PROGRAM
HOW TO KICKSTART YOUR CAREER IN GEOSYNTHETICS



SIAMAK & BELLA

Siamak Paulson is President of the Australasian chapter of the IGS, known as ACIGS. IGS corporate member ADE Consulting Group, where he is a **Principal Geotechnical Engineer**, hosted IGS Young Member **Bella Phung**, a fourth year **civil engineering student** at Griffith University, Queensland, for a day in its Brisbane office as part of the IGS Job Shadowing Program.



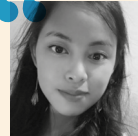
Siamak Paulson
President

This was our first job shadowing opportunity and we were very keen to provide an informative and productive day. We planned the day in advance and organized various

activities including presentations on what geosynthetics are, with samples of different types of geosynthetics, and team members shared a bit about the projects they were currently working on. Bella also spent time in our laboratory learning about our most common geotechnical testing methods.

I strongly recommend other companies get involved in the IGS Job Shadowing Program – it's a win-win situation for both as students experience a new environment and we get to know smart graduate engineers. It is also low-cost and only requires a day of everyone's time, but planning is key to ensure everyone gets the best out of it.

It was wonderful to share our experiences with Bella and see her developing new skills as she progresses with her career. We look forward to hosting more students in the future.”



Bella Phung
Fourth year
student

My specialism is structural and geotechnical engineering. My industry mentor currently works for a geomembrane production and supply company and told me a lot about geomembranes

and geotextiles, so I was extremely excited when I met Siamak at an event last year and was given the opportunity to visit ADE.

Although it was just one day I was able to learn so much about the role of a geotechnical engineer, what geosynthetics were and their applications. I got to do some geotechnical testing in the lab and Siamak introduced me to different types of geosynthetics, their real-life applications, and how ADE uses geotextiles in their projects.

For any students thinking of applying for job shadowing, I would say this is an awesome opportunity to get an idea of what it is like to be a geotechnical engineer and to understand more about materials like geosynthetics. It is also a great opportunity to network as you will get to speak to professionals and undergraduate and graduates like us. My experience has inspired me to do more research on geosynthetics so I can use them in future design, and spread the word about what they can do across the industry.”



“ My experience has inspired me to do more research on geosynthetics so I can use them in future design ”



A REWARDING OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS AND BUSINESSES

IGS JOB SHADOWING PROGRAM
HOW TO KICKSTART YOUR CAREER IN GEOSYNTHETICS



ANDRÉ ESTÊVÃO SILVA

Huesker Brazil, part of IGS Corporate Member company Huesker, has been offering **work experience opportunities** for more than two decades, and recently hosted student Gustavo Urquiza Junior from the Federal University of São Carlos. The company's Managing Director **André Estêvão Silva** explained the benefits of the scheme for both the business and student.



“It is always a pleasure for us to receive students at our plant and it is a delightful and productive day for both sides.”



André Estêvão Silva
Managing Director

Our job shadowing opportunity for undergraduate students invites them to visit us for a few days. They get to know the company and our processes as well as see technical presentations of geosynthetics applications. We also have an internship program where participants experience a cross-section of our departments and functions.

It is always a pleasure for us to receive students at our plant and it is a delightful and productive day for both sides. For the students, this is not only an opportunity to know a little more about geosynthetics and their applications in practice, see how they are produced, and learn about significant engineering projects, but it is also valuable for their personal development. For most of them this is their first direct contact

with a company's routine. In many cases, they take inspiration from that experience and, in some cases, material and literature for their academic works. Meanwhile, the business benefits from having enthusiastic young engineers learning and challenging our practice.

We will certainly continue offering student learning experiences in our company for a long time to come and encourage other businesses to do the same.”



A REWARDING OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS AND BUSINESSES

IGS JOB SHADOWING PROGRAM
HOW TO KICKSTART YOUR CAREER IN GEOSYNTHETICS



PRESTON & MANOJ

Manoj Reddy, a recent **graduate** of Queensland University of Technology where he did a **Masters in Professional Engineering: Civil and Management**, spent two days with **Axter Australia** where company host and IGS Young Members Committee chairman for the Asia-Pacific region **Preston Kendall** **provided a packed experience.**



Preston Kendall
IGS Young
Members
Committee

We advocate students learning by doing, not just sitting at a desk, so we provided a very interactive day allowing Manoj to get hands-on with geosynthetics materials, speak to colleagues and see the company in action.

Activities included

having a go at cutting samples of bituminous geomembrane at our warehouse in Brisbane before making new seam test samples with them using a hot air welder. We also visited counterparts at TRI Environmental where Manoj had lunch and a lab tour. He also learned about the roles of our engineers and observed a customer call to one of our major mining clients.

We plan to do a follow-up day where Manoj will come back to test the seam samples that we welded in the lab.

Education is key in ensuring the next generation of engineers has a better understanding of the use and applications of geosynthetic materials. Providing job shadowing opportunities is an excellent way to make this important link.”



“I would highly recommend applying for a job shadowing opportunity as you learn new skills and gain more knowledge”



Manoj Reddy
Recent graduate

I took part in the job shadowing program to build my network and see what opportunities opened up for me. I learned many things like what are the applications of the product,

how to market the product, discussion with clients and how to deliver to their requirements. I was also given some practical experience on how to weld geomembrane with a hot air welder.

After the experience, I am more knowledgeable about how an organization functions and how to work within a set of guidelines. I would highly recommend applying for a job shadowing opportunity as you learn new skills and gain more knowledge about the organization and industry.”



HOW TO APPLY

IGS JOB SHADOWING PROGRAM
HOW TO KICKSTART YOUR CAREER IN GEOSYNTHETICS



STUDENTS

Students should email **their local chapter** with their **resumé or CV**, including details of the **type of experience** they are looking for, **why** they want this opportunity, and **availability**.

CORPORATES

Corporate members are invited to either respond to an **'Expressions of Interest'** request sent out by their **local chapter**, or are encouraged to **contact the chapter directly** if they are interested in **offering placements**.

All applications will be assessed by the chapter and students contacted if they have been successful. The YMC will support chapters to facilitate the scheme in the best way for their members so frequency and provision of placements may vary depending on chapter resources.

Good luck with your applications!



CONTACT US

IGS JOB SHADOWING PROGRAM
HOW TO KICKSTART YOUR CAREER IN GEOSYNTHETICS

igs Young Members

igs Foundation

For **questions** or
more information
about the scheme, email

[youngmembers@
geosyntheticssociety.org](mailto:youngmembers@geosyntheticssociety.org).

You can also contact the
YM representative in your
local chapter to find out more
about how the scheme will be
running in your specific region.

Chapter contact details
can be found in the IGS
Chapters directory [here](#).



ABOUT THE IGS

The International Geosynthetics Society (IGS) is a learned society dedicated to the scientific and engineering development of geotextiles, geomembranes, related products and associated technologies.

The vision of the IGS is that geosynthetics be recognized to be fundamental to sustainable development by providing technological and engineering solutions to answer societal and environmental challenges.

To find out more, visit
www.geosyntheticssociety.org.

