

Improving the employability skills of international students

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WORKSHOP MODE

The workshop will be conducted **in-person**.

OVERVIEW OF WORKSHOP

This workshop aims to identify current challenges in international students' employability skills from an industry perspective and provide a platform for engineering educators to brainstorm and propose ways to tackle these challenges. The focus of this workshop will be different to recently published EA report on Barriers to employment for migrant engineers in Australia [1], which mainly focuses on *migrant engineers*. Instead, this workshop focuses on identifying feasible actions to improve employability skills of *international students* enrolled in either an undergraduate or postgraduate Engineering program. Key challenges will be first identified by interviews conducted with representative industries who hire engineering graduates with an international background. Participants of this workshop will be expected to reflect on these interview recordings and contribute to discussions around improving the employability skills of international engineering students.

ACTIVITIES

The workshop comprises of the following activities spanning for 90 minutes.

- Introduction to the workshop including aims, actions, and activities (15 min)
- Reflection and discussion – participants will be presented with video clips of interviews conducted with industry practitioners to reflect upon and discuss specific challenges identified by industry practitioners (60 min). The video clips will be presented in themes that provoke approaches to tackle challenges / issues raised by industry practitioners.
- Conclusions – notes and key points from each group will be collected and summarised to draw conclusions which will be presented at the end (15 min)

TARGET AUDIENCE

Academics and industry personal from Australia/New Zealand

OUTCOMES

- Identifying key challenges faced by international students to find meaningful employment
- Possible actions that can be taken at course, school, faculty and university levels

REFERENCES (OPTIONAL)

[1] Barriers to employment for migrant engineers, research report, Engineers Australia 2021

KEYWORDS

International students, employability skills, work integrated learning.

PRESENTERS' BACKGROUNDS

Chamith Wijenayake is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering at University of Queensland with a keen interest in the employability of engineering students. **Jayashri Ravishankar** is Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Associate Dean (Education) at the Faculty of Engineering at UNSW with the responsibility for leading the T&L portfolio in the faculty. **Siva Krishnan** is an Associate Professor in Engineering and Associate Head of School for Teaching and Learning in the School of Engineering at Deakin University with responsibility and oversight for curriculum and student learning across the School.