



Research in Engineering Education Symposium & Australasian Association for Engineering Education Conference

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WORKSHOP

Industry Field Trips: Educator and Student Perspectives

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WORKSHOP MODE

Hybrid

OVERVIEW OF WORKSHOP

The School of Chemical Engineering at the University of Queensland (UQ) has been successfully running industry field trips for students for over 40 years. This workshop aims to explore the success factors, challenges, and the value of running industry field trips for engineering undergraduate and postgraduate students. We will explore these concepts in the context of three main themes - enhancing student learning and motivation; developing an early sense of professional identity; and building friendships and a sense of cohort through participation in industry field trips.

ACTIVITIES

The expected format of the workshop will be:

- Introduction to UQ Chemical Engineering industrial field trip programs, including a short photo display,
- Presentation of UQ undergraduate and postgraduate student responses to recent surveys following industry field trips in 2021,
- Interactive survey of workshop participants to gauge the range of field trip participation and perceived value across Australia and New Zealand engineering Schools,
- Open participant discussion of teaching themes including student motivation and learning, early professional identity, and cohort and friendship building through industry field trips.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The target audience for this workshop will be engineering educators who are interested in learning about and incorporating industry field trips into their engineering programs. No prior knowledge of field trips is required.

OUTCOMES

Workshop attendees can expect to learn how engineering schools can incorporate industry field trips into their programs to enhance student learning, motivation, and experience.

KEYWORDS

Industry field trips, Professional identity, Student experience

PRESENTERS' BACKGROUNDS

All three presenters are Teaching-Focussed academic staff in the School of Chemical Engineering at UQ. Bev Coulter is Lecturer and Course Coordinator for a 2nd year foundation chemical engineering course and runs the annual 2nd year industry field trip to Gladstone. Tony Heynen is Program Lead for the Masters of Sustainable Energy (MSE) program and runs the annual MSE Field trip. Shaun Chen is a postdoc researcher in the area of student learning and student experience.