

**Question on Notice
No. 672
Asked on 9 May 2006**

MR CHOI asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for State Development, Trade and Innovation (MS BLIGH) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the increased work-readiness of graduates from Queensland Universities —

Will she advise what initiatives have been implemented?

ANSWER:

The Smart State University Internships Program is a Queensland government initiative under the Smart State Innovation Funds that provides \$1.05 million over three years to Queensland's universities to develop industry work placement programs for undergraduate students. This will encourage students to increase their technical and commercial skills through work placements and benefit future employers by producing work ready graduates.

Under the Smart State University Internships Program, Queensland universities are eligible to apply for funds to create new or enhance existing industry internship programs in priority areas such as science, engineering and technology.

Each Queensland university can apply for funding of up to \$116,664 over three years to assist the development of innovative internship programs.

The Smart State funding is matched by university funds on a dollar for dollar basis.

Queensland universities are encouraged to design an innovative internship program to best match the needs of their students in developing work ready skills. This supports local and regional needs.

The Smart State University Internships funding is only available for students studying on Queensland campuses.

Each Queensland university is potentially eligible to receive funding provided it outlines a robust internship program in its application.

All applications for Smart State University Internship Program funds are assessed by an independent panel of experts to establish their merit and relevance to the Program objectives.

On 8 May 2006 I announced the recipients of funding under Round One of the Smart State University Internships Program. The successful recipients of Round One funding were:

- University of Queensland;
- Queensland University of Technology;
- Griffith University;
- University of the Sunshine Coast;
- Central Queensland University; and
- Bond University.

The University of Queensland's proposal focuses on developing internship programs for engineering, food technology and agricultural science students at the St. Lucia and Gatton campuses.

The Queensland University of Technology internship will extend their successful Co-operative Education Program to the Faculties of Science, Built Environment and Engineering.

Griffith University will extend their successful Industrial Affiliates Program to science and information, communication and technology students.

The University of the Sunshine Coast will develop an internship program to support industry-based learning in science and technology.

The Central Queensland University will expand their Engineering Co-operative Program to include science, technology, business and law students.

Bond University will develop internship programs for information technology, biomedical science, forensic science and sports science students.

The three remaining Queensland universities are eligible to apply for Round Two Smart State University Internships funding. The call for Round Two applications will occur in July 2006. The remaining universities are:

- University of Southern Queensland;
- James Cook University; and
- Australian Catholic University.