

## INDUSTRY CONNECTED



To ensure our graduates have the necessary skills to succeed in their chosen field, we need to keep up-to-date with the latest industrial technologies, trends and practices.

This is where our relationships with regional employers and industry organisations are of huge value.

We meet regularly with our Employer Engagement Groups - business and community leaders from each of Waikato's main industry sectors - to talk about key industry trends, issues and direction. This ensures that our training and education are relevant, current and driven by the needs of regional businesses and organisations.

This enables our graduates to be work-ready and employable.

A large number of our graduates start their careers in the Waikato region working for local businesses. Through our positive relationships with these organisations, graduates have increased chances of securing employment.

With an emphasis on hands-on learning, work experience is an important aspect of our students' learning. Local industry plays a vital role by providing real world environments for students to further their learning through placements and internships.

Research is an important part of what we do at Wintec. Wintec has a well-established applied research and innovation capability. We develop innovative solutions in areas like water quality, primary industries, environmental regeneration and social innovation for commercial, community and local government customers.

Our centres regularly organise events that showcase the projects our researchers and students work on. These events give our partners a first-hand experience of our Wintec research projects.

Wintec established New Zealand's first and only Design Factory on Hamilton city campus in 2017. At Design Factory New Zealand, students from a range of disciplines work with industry partners in a positive learning environment to solve complex, real-world problems. This innovative teaching model is based on the growing Design Factory Global Network, which Wintec is now part of.

We also connect with industry through our subsidiaries - LearningWorks, which commercialises Wintec know-how and develops resources, training and online solutions for industry, and Soda Inc., Waikato's only business incubator with which we encourage economic growth in the region by further exploring the overlaps between business, education and innovation.

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