



COMP3850

PACE: Computing Industry Project

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

School of Computing

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Cameron Edmond

cameron.edmond@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email

During lecture time slot on non-lecture weeks.

Co-Convenor

Charanya Ramakrishnan

charanya.ramakrishnan@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp at 1000 level or above including COMP2250 OR COMP2270 or COMP2110 or COMP2050 or COMP2200 or COMP2750

Corequisites

20cp from 3000 level units

Co-badged status

Unit description

This PACE unit draws together learning in previous units to prepare students for the workplace through engaging with a partner organisation. Students will work in close collaboration throughout the session with a community-based project sponsor that has provided the specifications for the work that needs to be completed. Students will work in self-managed teams to first understand the problem or opportunity identified by the partner and then develop a project plan and scoping or requirements document. Students will create appropriate designs to solve a given problem, potentially delivering a software product or other outputs as needed by the sponsor. All projects will involve the development of supporting project documentation. The project requires an equal focus on process and product, requiring quality control and assurance methods, tools and techniques.

Visit [Employability Connect](#) for important information on this unit including required preparation and closing dates for PACE activities.

Learning in this unit enhances student understanding of global challenges identified by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ([UNSDGs](#)) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; Sustainable Cities and Communities

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Critically analyse and describe the client's problem and apply principles, models, tool, techniques, technology and processes to provide a solution.

ULO2: Demonstrate understanding of the project stages using appropriate process models in an authentic context

ULO3: Apply the basic principles of project management and teamwork while working closely with the project's customer

ULO4: Effectively Communicate results of the project (in both written and oral form)

ULO5: Recognise and address ethical issues when they arise based on an understanding of professional ethics

General Assessment Information

This unit is a Professional and Community Engagement (PACE) Unit.

This unit is particularly focussed in getting you work ready and increasing your employability. To complete the unit you will need to draw together the knowledge and skills you have learnt in

previous units and learn how to identify and gain any missing knowledge and skills needed to solve a real-world problem faced by a client. Furthermore, the unit provides practice in the softskills (see learning outcomes) sought by employers and required to meet the Australian Computer Society accreditation criteria. The unit assessments are structured around multiple deliverables including a final exam to ensure these goals are achieved.

To get an overview of what you will do, see the section below **"What to Expect"**.

This unit includes students from many different majors. Also, sponsors have a wide range of projects. Deliverables have been modified according to the type of project being undertaken. Teams will need to identify the type of project they are delivering, undertake appropriate activities and submit appropriate deliverables according to the identified project type.

PACE units in Science and Engineering, their Unit Convenors, and their students, are supported by a PACE Team within the Faculty. Throughout the unit offering, members of the Team may be in contact with students to provide or collect information. If you have any questions about PACE in Science and Engineering, please email: pace.science@mq.edu.au or visit the following webpages: <http://science.mq.edu.au/pace/>

If you require more information about PACE in general or access to forms such as those for the PACE Travel Grants, please go to: http://mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/professional_and_community_engagement/

Release Dates

The specification of what you need to deliver throughout the semester and when is provided in the Deliverable Definition Document in the Assessment Section on iLearn. This document provides instructions and guidance for all deliverables and is available from Week 1.

Late Assessment Submission and Penalties

Late work will not be accepted. As you are working in a team and also are expected to perform risk management where sickness or other misadventure should be planned for and managed. Disruption and special consideration requests will apply to individuals only, not to groups. The team will need to discuss with the individual who has a special consideration the impact on that person's tasks and share of the work for that deliverable and future deliverables. If there is a significant problem outside the control of the group, they should contact the convenor well before the deliverable deadline to discuss solutions

Requirements to pass the unit

To pass this unit you need to achieve a total mark equal to or greater than 50%.

Your final grade will depend on your performance in the project and exam. The final mark for the unit will be calculated by combining the marks for all assessment tasks according to the percentage weightings shown in the assessment summary. Note that in order to receive the full marks awarded to your group you must contribute your equal share to the project. Individual contribution forms will be used to identify the contribution of each team member. Every individual in the team will complete this online form. These forms and the process will be explained further in the week 1 induction.

Special Consideration

The [Special Consideration Policy](#) aims to support students who have been impacted by short-term circumstances or events that are serious, unavoidable and significantly disruptive, and which may affect their performance in assessment. If you experience circumstances or events that affect your ability to complete the assessments in this unit on time, please inform the convenor and submit a Special Consideration request through <http://connect.mq.edu.au/>.

AI Approach

Open - These assessments do not restrict the application of AI tools. However, it is expected that the use of AI is acknowledged in an appropriate manner, similar to the expectation to provide references for other resources or tools that are used in producing your work. Any use of AI should comply with the University's Responsible and Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence Policy.

For more information, please see <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/assessments/ai-and-assessment>

As this is a Computing unit, many students will have formed strong views around AI based on ethical, technological or other grounds. It is important to discuss with your team how AI will be used early and come to an agreement.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Team Project Induction	25%	No	03/09/2026	Individual and Group	No	Open
Individual Project Retrospective	25%	No	Exam Period	Individual	No	Open
Team Project	50%	No	Project documents (D4) 24/10/26, Presentation 6/11/26	Individual and Group	No	Open

Team Project Induction

Assessment Type ¹: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 24 hours

Due: **03/09/2026**

Weighting: **25%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual and Group

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

Teams will complete a project Feasibility Report, Team manual, Project Plan and Software

Requirements Specification or Project Scoping Document

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically analyse and describe the client's problem and apply principles, models, tool, techniques, technology and processes to provide a solution.
- Demonstrate understanding of the project stages using appropriate process models in an authentic context
- Apply the basic principles of project management and teamwork while working closely with the project's customer
- Effectively Communicate results of the project (in both written and oral form)
- Recognise and address ethical issues when they arise based on an understanding of professional ethics

Individual Project Retrospective

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 24 hours

Due: **Exam Period**

Weighting: **25%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

This is a final individual reflection that reviews the project, processes, product and people.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically analyse and describe the client's problem and apply principles, models, tool, techniques, technology and processes to provide a solution.
- Demonstrate understanding of the project stages using appropriate process models in an authentic context
- Apply the basic principles of project management and teamwork while working closely with the project's customer
- Effectively Communicate results of the project (in both written and oral form)
- Recognise and address ethical issues when they arise based on an understanding of professional ethics

Team Project

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 70 hours

Due: **Project documents (D4) 24/10/26, Presentation 6/11/26**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual and Group

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

Updated Project Plan and Requirements/Scoping Document, Project Documentation, Prototype/
MVP development and demonstration, Project presentation

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically analyse and describe the client's problem and apply principles, models, tool, techniques, technology and processes to provide a solution.
- Demonstrate understanding of the project stages using appropriate process models in an authentic context
- Apply the basic principles of project management and teamwork while working closely with the project's customer
- Effectively Communicate results of the project (in both written and oral form)
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¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- [Academic Success](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

Week 1 Classes

Lectures begin in Week 1. See you there!

Week-By-Week

In Week 1 you will be advised which team you are in and your project. You will meet your team and industry partner in Week 1. In Week 2 there will be team training. After that there are no classes until Week 11 to prepare you for the final presentations and the exam. In Week 13, you will present your project to other teams, industry partners and university staff.

In the interum weeks, including the mid-semester break, you are expected to be working on your

project and posting weekly reports to the iLearn forums. Unit staff will be running consultations during these weeks. Your team may nominate to attend, or in some cases be identified as needing to have such a meeting and be summoned.

Methods of Communication

Cohort-wide information will be communicated through iLearn announcements and/or lectures. Group-specific information will be communicated via iLearn forums and student email. Individual information will be communicated via student email. Official information will never be distributed through non-official University means, and information will not be repeated (e.g., an announcement made in a lecture cannot reasonably be expected to be stated again in an iLearn post).

Students are encouraged to post on the Discussion Forums on iLearn. Individual concerns should be emailed to the UCs. Staff will not respond to communication from non-student email addresses.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the

University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Changes from Previous Offering

We value student feedback to be able to continually improve the way we offer our units. As such, we encourage students to provide constructive feedback via student surveys, to the teaching staff directly, or via the FSE Student Experience & Feedback link in the iLearn page.

Student feedback from the previous offering of this unit was very positive overall, with students pleased with the clarity around assessment requirements and the level of support from teaching staff. As such, no change to the delivery of the unit is planned; however, we will continue to strive to improve the level of support and the level of student engagement.

PACE Related Policy and WHS

What to do in the case of an emergency:

1. Remove yourself from any danger.
2. Call 000, if necessary.
3. Speak to your partner-based supervisor, if possible. The Organisation may have emergency procedures to follow.

THEN - if the emergency occurs in office hours (i.e. Monday - Friday 9am-5pm)

4. Contact your Unit Convenor by phone/email as soon as you can.
5. If you cannot reach your Unit Convenor, contact your Faculty PACE Manager by phone/email.

OR - if the emergency occurs outside of office hours (i.e. outside of Monday - Friday 9am-5pm)

6. Phone Campus Security Office on (02) 9850-9999 as soon as you can. This is a 24 hour, 7 days a week service and it does not matter where in Australia you are when you call. Please identify yourself as a PACE student when you call.

N.B. For any minor issues with your participation activity, please speak to your partner-based Supervisor. If the problem is more serious, please contact your Unit Convenor or your Faculty PACE Manager.

If you are experiencing difficulties and need to speak to a counsellor:

Contact the MQ Counselling Service at Campus Wellbeing on 9850-7497 (Monday - Friday, 8am-6pm)

1800 MQ CARELINE (1800-227-367) - information and referral service (24 hours, 7 days a week)

If you would like to speak to a counsellor outside of office hours, you can also contact Lifeline on 13 11 14 (24 hours, 7 days a week).

Work, Health, and Safety (WHS)

A PACE Activity is a practical experience allocated to, and undertaken by, a student within a PACE unit which may take place in premises other than the University (usually the Partner Organisation's premises). When working or studying in non-University premises, the primary responsibility for the health and safety of our students becomes that of the Partner Organisation hosting the student. However, as a student, you also have a legal responsibility under the Workplace Health & Safety Act 2011 and the Macquarie University Health & Safety Policy to ensure the health and safety of yourself and of others in the workplace.

Each student has a moral and legal responsibility for ensuring that his or her work environment is conducive to good health and safety, by:

- ensuring that their work and work area is without risk to the health and safety of themselves and others
- complying with the University's and Partner Organisation's Work Health & Safety Policy and Procedures
- reporting hazards and incidents as they occur in accordance with University and Partner Organisation's policy
- actively participating in all health and safety activities and briefing sessions (eg emergency evacuation procedures, site inspections etc)

Each student is also required to advise their Unit Convenor or Faculty PACE Manager as soon as possible when:

- he/she feels unsafe at any stage during the PACE activity
- he/she did not receive a safety induction prior to the commencement of the activity covering: First aid, Fire and emergency evacuation; and Injury/incident reporting
- he/she did not receive any specialised instructions/training necessary to carry out the role
- an incident/accident happens (even when reported to the Partner Organisation/supervisor and managed by them)

Non-compliance with the above may result in withdrawal of the student from the PACE Activity.

WHS and risk for fieldwork-based PACE activities

Certain PACE activities are fieldwork-based. Fieldwork includes professional experience whereby the fieldwork i) forms the majority of the activity; ii) is essential to partner benefit; and iii) requires the application of discipline specific knowledge and skills. Fieldwork-based activities are

undertaken in collaboration with a partner and are conducted on a site in the natural and/or built environment in order to collect data (e.g. soil samples, asking questions of humans, documenting information about animals, etc.) for the purposes of informing a study about that environment or site. Fieldwork may be led by students as the discipline experts; however, it requires supervision by an appropriately qualified Macquarie University staff or external partner. Students who will undertake fieldwork-based PACE activities must consult with their unit convenor regarding additional WHS and risk procedures that might be necessary. All fieldwork must be officially approved by relevant staff before it commences.

PACE-related policies, procedures, and other important information

Student Undertaking Form

Before a student begins their activity they will be required to complete the Student Undertaking Form. This form asks students for their contact details, emergency contact information and their agreement to abide by the Roles and Responsibilities as set out in the Governance and Guidelines document. The Student Undertaking form is provided electronically through iParticipate and the Faculty PACE team will alert you when it is available for completion and instructions on how to complete it.

PACE Activity – Early Commencement Procedure: – to outline the conditions under which the unit convenor of a PACE unit will consider a request from a student to commence or complete a PACE activity prior to the official start date of the associated PACE unit.

PACE - Managing Other Commitments Procedure: to outline the University's approach to an absence or other form of disruption during the session due to a student undertaking a PACE activity.

PACE - Reasonable Adjustments, Guideline and Procedure: Macquarie University will endeavour to match students with an appropriate host and feasible PACE activity to maximise student success. These documents provide good practice information for students and staff to encourage early disclosure of circumstances (e.g. disability, medical condition, flexible time arrangements, or leave days for official observances, etc.), which may impact on a student's PACE activity, and the subsequent arrangement of reasonable adjustments when enrolling or participating in a PACE Unit (Guideline).

PACE activities requiring background checks: Some partner organisations may require students to complete certain background checks and/or clearances in cases where they will be working with children, young people, people with disabilities, the frail-aged, at-risk clients, and government/statutory agencies. It's very important that students complete the required background clearances before beginning the PACE activity. Any necessary information on background checks will be communicated directly to students by the Unit Convenor or the Faculty PACE team. Please note there is an extra verification step required for students who need to complete a Working with Children Check. Students will be required to provide their WWCC number to the Faculty PACE Team electronically and the result of their check will need to be verified by MQ WWCC Administrator (Governance Services) before they start their activity.

Policy regarding PACE and the AHEGS statement: PACE units will be flagged on student transcripts with the symbol 'π' after the unit code which corresponds to the following statement

on the transcript:

π: Units marked with a π are designated PACE units. These units provide students with an opportunity to learn through practical experience and make a valuable contribution to the community by applying knowledge and skills acquired at the University.

PACE and Ethical Practice: Ethical considerations feature heavily in the PACE Initiative. As ambassadors of the University, students are expected to engage with the wider community in a responsible and ethically informed manner that respects the rights of individuals, communities and the environment. This expectation applies to all PACE activities regardless of their nature. Ethical practice involves negotiating the ethical complexities of the context with which you are working. This involves critically thinking about issues of power, hierarchy, culture and position, and about the potential risks of your work and interactions with others, immediate and over time. It is important to ensure that risks are mitigated and experiences are enriching and worthwhile for all those involved.

In addition to the role of students as ambassadors, partners must conform to the University's ethical standards; PACE activities must be aligned with the wellbeing of people and planet; there are research-based PACE activities as well as collaborative research with partners; and, the way in which everybody's PACE experiences are captured and shared must be ethical. If a student ever feels that unethical behaviour has occurred during a PACE activity, they should consult with their Unit Convenors and/or the Faculty PACE staff immediately. Further, any students whose PACE activity will involve research that is led by a Macquarie staff member must consult with their convenor prior to commencement to confirm whether or not research ethics permission is required.

PACE and IP: Students enrolled in PACE units may be working with external industry partners. Although it is uncommon, during some activities Intellectual Property may be created and there may be some instances when the partner requires the assignment of IP. Students are encouraged to seek legal advice prior to entering into any such agreement. Students uncertain of their rights relating to IP ownership can seek advice from the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). This should be done by contacting the relevant Faculty PACE Manager.

PACE Grants and Prizes: There are several ways in which PACE might support students financially to undertake PACE activities. PACE students are also eligible to apply for the prestigious Prof. Judyth Sachs PACE Prizes.

http://students.mq.edu.au/courses/professional_and_community_engagement/pace_grants/

http://students.mq.edu.au/courses/professional_and_community_engagement/pace_prizes/

What To Expect

This unit is different to other units you have done. You will be working on a project with other team members to address a problem or opportunity identified by your industry partners. The more you put in, the more you will get out. To succeed, the focus will be on "something of value" to the client. This will involve understanding the client's context; working out the best solution with the given resources; working out what upskilling is needed and how to get it; scoping and ongoing management of the project to deliver a solution; great communication and team working

skills. Team will follow agile processes to incrementally be improving their MVP and associated documentation. Communication mediums, including meeting times and location, will be negotiated with the client and team.

Before the semester starts, you will receive an email asking you to preference for projects.

While your focus should be on delivering a Minimum Viable Product to the client, you will be required to submit deliverables via iLearn on a regular basis to ensure engagement and progress. These documents are based on standing industry practices, but also geared towards ensuring you have met the learning outcomes. We encourage you to leverage these documents and use them not as something to submit, but as functional tools to help you achieve your project.

Unit information based on version 2026.01R of the [Handbook](#)