

Whitley College's NEXT Course is focused upon the developing the faith of emerging and young adults through theological and biblical exploration, cultural discernment, purposeful living and justice seeking opportunities. Some of our students are also seeking to integrate into their experience a practical, hands-on placement, internship or missional opportunity.

WHAT IS A NEXT PLACEMENT?

A NEXT placement offers students an action-reflection development opportunity through a coordinated relationship between NEXT and you, the partner organisation. Through this partnership, students learn and grow through the provision of:

- A clearly defined, hands-on, *meaningful project or task* that the student(s) are able to participate in or take responsibility for
- *Active supervision* and support in the placement setting focusing on both project-competence and discipleship/character matters
- Regular *class-based discussion* and reflection at NEXT
- *Coordination and interaction* between NEXT and placement provider staff to ensure student support and good ministry/missional outcomes
- *Assessment work* (such as reflection reports and work journals) administered by NEXT

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A PLACEMENT EXPERIENCE:

There are many purposes in mind, but three specifically to keep in mind are:

First and foremost, this is about the student's discipleship and character formation. Yes, this is about participating with God as He establishes his Reign on earth, but you are probably aware of the ways this has unfortunately been used as an excuse for an intern to do photocopying and various other menial tasks. It is important that we keep the formation of the student in view and consider what experiences, projects and tasks can best serve this end.

The second purpose is for the student to have the opportunity to develop some specific skills and competence in whatever area they are serving.

And thirdly, that students will be encouraged to establish practices of ongoing-learning, self-awareness and theological insight as they reflect upon their experiences.

The placement experience will also contribute towards the NEXT student's Diploma in Theology. The specific learning outcomes that will be assessed for this unit include:

- 1) Reflect theologically on their cultural and contextual setting;
- 2) Engage in a mission, ministry, community or marketplace setting reflecting the skills and standards of ethical practice required;
- 3) Plan, implement and evaluate one new activity that reflects integration of theoretical and practical learning;
- 4) Engage in supervisorial relationships.

NEXT @ a Glance

Whitley College's NEXT Diploma Course is focused upon developing the faith of emerging and young adults by partnering with churches and other agencies.

NEXT grows the faith of young people through theological and biblical exploration, cultural discernment, purposeful living and justice seeking opportunities.

- ▶ earn a diploma in theology
- ▶ explore spirituality, identity & theology
- ▶ choose electives in justice, creative arts, & biblical studies
- ▶ integrate with an internship or missional placement
- ▶ grow through spiritual retreats, faith practices & personal mentoring

WHAT TASKS, PROJECTS OR OPPORTUNITIES CAN A PLACEMENT ENTAIL?

We are really keen to see a wide variety of opportunities made available to our NEXT students. As an indicative list, placements could involve:

- Schools work
- Childrens/Youth ministry
- Community development
- Social justice / social engagement / advocacy
- Camping ministry
- Church-based internships

THROUGH HOSTING A STUDENT PLACEMENT, THE ORGANISATION/AGENCY INVOLVED CAN :

- Contribute to the ongoing development and formation of emerging and young adults.
- Be directly involved in the training, resourcing and equipping of the next generation who will continue the great ministry and mission work being done through churches and mission organisations throughout Australia.
- Placement providers can also gain valuable supervision experience.
- Finally, it is an effective method of discovering new ministry/mission workers, who through the placement process become familiar with your organisation, and you with them.

WHAT'S NEXT? (no pun intended!)

Placements that provide the best discipleship and formation opportunities will emerge as a genuine partnership between NEXT and your organisation offering an integrated experience for students (not parallel processes).

A variety of resources can be accessed at: <http://next.asn.au/placements/>

1. Placement Providers Handbook – a short document that outlines further the expectations you can have of placement students, the expectations of yourself as placement provider and supervisor, and also various ethical and procedural requirements of a placement.
2. Placement Agreement Form - The way we reach a three-way agreement is by using the NEXT Placement Agreement form. While it is a form, the intention is for it to sponsor a conversation primarily between yourself and the student, and secondarily us at NEXT, so that everybody is clear on the expectations and preferred outcomes of the placement. For a placement to get secured we will need to receive and sign off on the Placement Agreement Form.

If you have any questions or would like to chat to get further clarity on NEXT placements, please don't hesitate to contact me.



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