

INDIGENOUS TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM

Meet MITCHELL



→ What made you apply?

Mainly the unique aspect of learning on the job being a core part of the role. I wasn't sure of what I wanted to do, so it seemed like a good program to be a part of to find some direction. It was also a good way to receive financial benefit while studying to support myself and family.

→ Can you outline some of your daily tasks that you carried out in your role as an IGNITE trainee?

As an IGNITE trainee I worked in the Badanami Student Success team. My general day to day tasks mainly included coordinating with students and tutors for the Tutoring for Success (TFS) program. This involved maintaining spreadsheets and records, and responding to emails and phone enquiries. I would also occasionally assist with events for the Badanami and DVCIL teams, such as creating registration pages and posters. My tasks would vary depending on what was needed that week, but overall I focused on supporting other staff members and taking on what I could to assist with operations running smoothly.

→ In what capacity has Western supported your professional development?

Western supported my professional development by creating a space to build confidence and learn without pressure. I was given responsibilities that helped me develop skills with support from my supervisors and team. Through the traineeship, I was able to gain experience in an office environment where I could develop my communication and problem-solving skills. I also had access to training sessions and workshops that helped me feel more prepared for future processes like interviews and resume writing.

→ What was your biggest fear when deciding to apply to the traineeship?

My biggest fear when deciding to apply was not feeling ready enough. I had mostly been focused on studying up until that point, so the idea of working in a big organisation felt a bit intimidating. I was worried I might not know what to do or that I wouldn't be able to keep up. Everyone I worked with as a trainee was welcoming and accommodating, so those fears went away pretty quickly. The fact it's a traineeship designed to help you learn on the job makes it feel more approachable and lowers the stakes. Once I settled in, I realised that it was okay not to know everything straight away.

→ What opportunities do you believe this traineeship presents for its participants?

The traineeship offers a really valuable stepping stone to full-time work. You get to familiarise yourself with real professional skills and administrative processes that would be useful in any workplace. There's also the opportunity to meet a wide range of people, build a network, and share experiences and culture by taking part in different events, workshops, and classes. Being part of the university also provides you opportunities for career growth and makes it easier to find future employment. You're essentially given time to figure out your professional path while having financial stability and guidance along the way.

→ If you had one piece of advice to give to upcoming trainees, what would it be?

Get involved as much as you can and take in the advice and lessons you're given. Show up to events, training sessions, and consider any opportunities that come along. Even if something is outside your comfort zone you can learn a lot just by showing up and listening. I think that really helps make the most of the experience as a trainee.

For more information or to register your interest, [click here.](#)