Dear Principal,



**Industrial Design Students as Technicians in Schools Program**

I hope this letter finds you and your school community well. I am writing to bring your attention to our new program, **Industrial Design Students as Technicians in Schools,** and to share the numerous benefits of hiring part-time Industrial Design students to work as Technicians in your Technologies faculty.

As you know, contemporary Design and Technologies / STEAM education is critical in providing students with a well-rounded education that equips them with essential skills for the 21st century. By incorporating the expertise and skills of these young designers, you can significantly enhance your school's offerings in these areas and foster a dynamic, engaging and safe learning environment.

Universities like our project partner RMIT have a renowned Industrial Design program that cultivates students with a diverse range of skills and ideas. These students possess theoretical knowledge and practical experience, making them well-suited to contribute effectively to your school. By employing them as Technicians, you can leverage their expertise in various areas to support the teacher, including traditional and advanced prototyping skills.

The Design and Technologies curriculum in particular aims to develop students' critical and creative thinking, problem-solving abilities, and technical skills. Hiring part-time ID students as technicians aligns perfectly with these goals. Their practical knowledge and understanding of design principles can enrich classroom activities, facilitate hands-on learning, and promote innovation among students. Moreover, these students can serve as valuable mentors, inspiring and guiding your students to explore their potential in the field of Design and Technologies.

I would also like to draw your attention to the [Technologies Teacher Shortage Report](https://datta.vic.edu.au/resources/Documents/2019/Draft%20DATTA%20Vic%20Tech%20Teacher%20Shortage%20Report%202019%20vic.pdf) published by DATTA Vic. The report highlights the urgent need for schools to find and train teachers who can effectively deliver the Design and Technologies curriculum. As schools face challenges in recruiting qualified teachers, hiring part-time Industrial Design students can serve as an effective temporary solution to address the shortage. By working alongside experienced teachers, these students can gain valuable education experience that may lead them to become the future teachers our schools desperately need – particularly with the announcement of [scholarships for free secondary teaching degrees](https://www.vic.gov.au/scholarships-secondary-teaching-degrees).

DATTA Vic has a mission to support schools in the implementation of this essential learning area now and in the future. By providing a network which brings together schools and Industrial Design students, you can benefit from a partnership that aligns with your school’s own goals. This collaboration not only supports your school in delivering a dynamic Design and Technologies program but also provides opportunities for your students to engage with industry professionals and build connections for their future careers.

I encourage you to consider the advantages of incorporating part-time Industrial Design students into your Technologies faculty. By doing so, you can tap into their expertise, promote 21st-century skill development, and address the current shortage of technology teachers.

For more information and to register your interest in this program please visit our [project webpage](https://datta.vic.edu.au/page-18260). Contact Laura at pl@datta.vic.edu.au with enquiries.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Murphy

Executive Officer

DATTA Vic

