

Meet Lachlan.

Platinum Blasting Services welcomed Lachlan to our **Engineering Student Vacation Program** to get involved in real mining operations and gain practical blast engineering experience during the summer university break.

In order to gain an understanding of our business and the technical aspects across our blasting operations, Lachlan split his time between getting his hands dirty on site and working collaboratively with our technical team on exciting projects in our Brisbane head office.

At Platinum Blasting, our summer intern program provides the opportunity for a university student currently studying an engineering degree to get a kick-start to their profession and bridge the gap between education and career.

We asked Lachlan a few questions, to learn a little more about him and his experience with the program.

What did you study and when do you graduate?

I studied a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Mining Engineering at the University of Queensland. I completed my studies at the end of 2020 and have since graduated which has been my greatest personal achievement to date. Throughout my studies, I was fortunate enough to gain work placements and mentors along the way from different mining companies which allowed me to really develop my soft and technical skills.

What made you want to apply for the program?

At the time, I was on the hunt for some more practical placement experience. I saw the job advertisement and applied for it almost immediately. The advantage I saw in working for Platinum Blasting over other companies was its size and potential exposure to hands-on experience which can be hard to come by. I had previously not worked in the coal industry and decided to begin filling this knowledge gap. The company gave a great first impression which was a true representation of what it really is.

What sort of tasks did you complete and which projects did you work on?

During my 3 months at Platinum Blasting my time was split evenly between time onsite and in the office. I spent time at the company's mine site blasting operations in Central Queensland, where I assisted with priming and charging activities on the bench. I had the opportunity to work on a number of exciting projects. A key project was investigating and improving logistical management of goods through historical data trends. I also spent time at the company's Emulsion Plant which gave me a hands-on experience seeing how explosive products are made.

I really enjoyed receiving the opportunity to visit these operations as it gave me a huge insight into how site-specific properties can influence blast design. The type of explosive products and detonators used can also have a large impact on the performance.

What was your most memorable experience during the program and what aspects did you enjoy?

The most memorable experience was seeing everyone's hard work and efforts go up in smoke! Witnessing a blast firsthand was hands down the most memorable experience during this program. Over the few months, I got to understand and appreciate the amount of effort that goes into a blast and understand the technical and safety challenges that are at play.

As a student gaining firsthand experience, did you feel challenged at times? Did you discover any limitations?

I think it is important to feel challenged at all times. It always presents opportunity for growth and I was continuously immersed in this atmosphere at Platinum. One of the big learnings for myself was to ask plenty of questions and to utilise time wisely. The teams both onsite and in the office made me feel welcome and appreciated which really makes a difference as a young professional entering the workforce.

As a soon to be graduate, which three pieces of advice would you give to a current student?

As it stands, the resources industry in Australia is really taking off and there has never been a more exciting time to enter it. My three pieces of advice for current university students include:

1. Promoting yourself - Build a resume as soon as possible and keep it up-to-date regularly. Make it exciting to read. Use this to apply for every vacation program and scholarship you come across. I recommend setting up job alerts on Seek, LinkedIn or talking to your university faculty as there are plenty out there.
2. Get involved – whether this is at university student run events, societies or networking functions – build yourself a social and professional network within and outside of university.
3. Leverage and plan for the future – Always keep in touch with those people within your professional network. Gain a mentor and begin understanding where you see yourself in 5 years, and how you can get there. Always think ahead!

It's been an absolute pleasure having Lachlan on the Platinum Blasting team, and we wish him well with his bright future.



If you are interested in getting involved in Platinum Blasting's Engineering Vacation Student Program:

- apply via the Careers page of our website at <http://www.platinumblasting.com/contact/careers/> or
- email us at employment@platinumblasting.com