

# STUDENT GUIDE

## MENTOR INFORMATION



**Job Title:**

IT/Business Analyst @ ThoughtWare  
Senior Research Assistant & Lecturer @  
Griffith University

**Quals:** Bachelor of Information Technology  
with 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours & Diploma of Business

**Job Description:**

All things IT! In a working week, I could be consulting on a HR project for a government organization, implementing a knowledge management system in an SME, preparing and delivering lectures for 3 different subjects, marking assignments, giving professional advice on conducting successful research projects; developing web pages; carrying out research on one of the many projects I am working on; such as doctors using mobile devices in a hospital environment to help save lives, developing 'smart' internet technologies to help small business be more competitive, or looking at the complex and puzzling problem of the lack of female participation in IT careers.

**Enjoy Most:**

No 2 days are the same! I love that I am involved in a range of activities on a daily basis. There are always new things to learn also. But most of all, I enjoy helping people to use technology to improve their working lives or other.

**Best Experience:**

I have a couple really...speaking to over 200 high school girls about my career in IT at a WIT role model showcase "Real Women, Unreal Jobs" and knowing that it was being streamed live on the web!

jenineb@thoughtware.com.au

...getting an email from a student on my birthday telling me to smile knowing that I have made a positive difference to many of those students I have been in contact with....and most of all, the amazing women I have been lucky enough to know, study and work with, and learn from in the IT industry.

**Characteristics:**Being flexible:

I work from home 3 days of the week which makes for a very productive work

environment but I am also able to go to my office when I need to. Most of my meetings are conducted virtually which is great as it saves travel time and I can work the hours that I want.

Interested in learning new things:

The best thing about IT is that you never can know everything!

There are always new things being developed and it is just amazing!

Energetic:

I am always on the lookout for new

opportunities as in the IT industry, who you know can be important. I try to get out there and meet people

professionally and take advantage of challenges and opportunities I am presented (such as judging in the Asia-Pacific ICT Awards and the Women in Technology scholarship awards which is a fantastic experience).

Just do IT!

If you are doing something you love, quite often, it doesn't even feel like work!

**Favourite website:**

[www.communityaidabroad.com](http://www.communityaidabroad.com)

[www.wit.org.au](http://www.wit.org.au)

[www.abc.net.au/triplej](http://www.abc.net.au/triplej)

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com) - I use it to answer all of my questions!

JENINE  
BEEKHUYZEN



**Job Title:**

Yr 12 Student at Cavendish Road State High School

**Job Description:**

I am about to finish my final year at High School having completed all 5 years in a form of computing class. Grade 8 was typing, 9 & 10 were computer word processing classes, and 11 & 12 were IPT (information processing technology).

In IPT, I have learnt how to program and create programs that actually run, and can be used by others on computers.

**Enjoy Most:**

What I enjoy most about IPT and computers is the challenge. I like to be challenged when I create a program and I also like to feel that sense of achievement when a project is complete and is fully working. I also like being a female, proving that girls too can use computers to program.

KRISTIE  
HAUSER

**Best Experience:**

Being able to talk to others about programming, and have others turn around to say what are you talking about gives me a feeling of pride to know that I have a certain knowledge that others don't.

**Characteristics:**

I enjoy IPT because it allows you to be technical, smart and creative at the same time. Designing a program requires thought to create the idea, technical ideas to program and creativity to make the program more user friendly. It gives me a chance to bring all the characteristics into play at once.

I am an arts student, studying art, drama and photography. I plan to branch into photography when I've finished school but I'd like to keep my IPT skills for the future, as I would like to try multimedia, graphic design and digital work.

**Favourite Website:**

I don't have a favourite website, although, I am constantly on Hotmail. I receive too many emails. I also spend time at [www.gryffindortower.net](http://www.gryffindortower.net), [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), and [www.shockwave.com](http://www.shockwave.com).

**Job Title:** "Technical Specialist"— IBM Software Group  
**Quals:** Dip. Teach. Primary (Special Ed)  
— Griffith Uni; ADPA (Dance) - QUT; Dip. Training & Assessment Systems; Bachelor Education – Griffith Uni; Bachelor Information Technology (Industry) – In progress—  
**Griffith University**

**Job Description:**

My job entails aspects of customer requirements elicitation, as well as Lotus/Domino database design and various other IBM software products. The team that I work with is mainly involved in the pre-sales process of analysing what type of software an organisation needs. Some of my work includes maintaining IBM administration systems databases. Each database is usually emailed to me from Sydney, modifications completed by me in Brisbane and emailed back to Sydney. It is common in IBM to use technology in order to work effectively with groups of people who are based in different geographical locations across Australia, New Zealand, and Internationally. With software applications which allow instant messaging and online meetings, distance is not a problem.

DEBRATAP@au1.ibm.com

**Enjoy Most:**

The ever-present challenge of keeping up to date with new technology ensures that my job is always motivating. I enjoy meeting different types of people with different skills and expertise who contribute to organizations and the culture that we live and work within. My job is satisfying because the products that I work with are designed to make other people's jobs more satisfying, motivating, productive and profitable. I enjoy the culture at IBM which is one which encourages people to be accepting of individual differences, constantly learning, helping others and working as a team to produce a high standard of quality.

**Best Experience:**

My best experience so far has been placement on a very large project where I was able to work alongside colleagues who had extensive experience on Australian as well as international projects with some of the world's largest companies. The most satisfying thing was that I learned so much from them because as well as observing them and having a specific role in the project myself, they found time to explain things which I would not have been able to learn from a text book or any other way than being right there on the spot in the midst of the customer interaction, technical testing and implementation. As well as learning specifics I observed a 'learning culture' attitude which is so elusive to so many organizations.

**Characteristics:**

I have always been in the fortunate position of being able to work in career areas that I really enjoyed and have always thought of 'work' as a terrific part of life ... rather than ... 'just a job'. The track taken to get to the current part of my life which is my work at IBM is as follows :

[1] Graduated from High School ->  
[2] Dip. Primary & Special Education (GU) -> [3] Teaching Positions (Inala Special School, Goodna Special School) -> [4] Assoc. Dip Performing Arts (Dance) (QUT) -> [5] 'Qld Ballet Company' - Position ->  
[6] Owner / Operator – Fitness Centre/s -> [7] Owner / Operator – Fitlink Training College (RTO); Fitlink Magazine;  
[www.fitlink.com.au](http://www.fitlink.com.au); Fitlink Studio 100; Fitlink Product Agencies & Retail. -> [8] Dip. Training & Assessment Systems -> [9] Bachelor Education (GU) -> [10] Bachelor Information Technology (Industry) – in progress at GU -> [11] **IBM – Position.**

DEBRA TAPIOLAS



I have a passion for crossing traditional IT boundaries... just as I had a passion for crossing traditional dance boundaries (classical -> contemporary etc). In an IT domain ... I am just as happy to 'programme' as I am to be involved in 'Information Systems', 'Education & IT' and "IT in Education" ... and I believe that only benefits can be gained by trying to understand and experience all domains.

**Favourite website**

Would you believe ... I don't have a favourite website. Would you believe that I don't spend a great deal of time recreationally 'surfing the web'. I use the web to acquire information when I need it. Have never played a computer game in my life ... but love physical outdoors sports, cooking, gardening, running, finding antiques, painting, choreography /dance / music, swimming, surfing (in water with waves).

I **love** to see the computer making people's lives easier and allowing them to work more efficiently so that they can have more time to do all the things that life has to offer.... However I **don't love** computers. I **use computers** ... to work for me.

### **Job Title:**

Strategy & Marketing Manager of e-Jaz; President  
– Electronic Business Internet Group



SHARON  
WILD

### **Characteristics**

- An open mind
- Determination
- Ability to adapt to (and create) change

### **Job Description:**

As owner of an ICT business that specialises in developing unique niche internet products and services we use ICT in all aspects of our business, from business planning and cash flow forecasting, to marketing our products and naturally developing and deploying our products. My role includes managing the marketing plans and strategy plans for e-JAZ including for our internet based currency conversion service and return on investment tracking service for web sites. I also manage Australia's largest online jewellery store and conduct the marketing for our 5 products/services. I also write an e-business column for the QBR newspaper and am on the board of two non-profit organisations.

### **Enjoy Most**

The flexibility, adaptability and creativity that being involved in the internet industry demands. Strategy development is my strongest point and the most enjoyable part of my position.

### **Best Experience**

There is a combination of best experiences. Developing two niche products, managing a successful e-commerce jewellery business and winning 7 business awards in the past 18 months.

### **Favourite Website**

Our websites – [gilletts.com.au](http://gilletts.com.au) , [jazreturns.com](http://jazreturns.com), [jazconvert.com](http://jazconvert.com), [search66.com](http://search66.com), [oodles.com](http://oodles.com)



**Job Title:** Auditor, Information Systems  
**Company:** UNITAB Ltd  
**Quals:** Bachelor of Information Technology

**Job Description:**

I work in a small Audit team of 5 including 2 other ICT specific auditors. We are responsible for performing ICT audits for the entire company encompassing Queensland, South Australia and The Northern Territory. My role includes assessing the adequacy of controls and procedures over the financial operations and information systems of the company and identifying weaknesses to Management. In other words I perform projects or audits (big and small) on various aspects of the company in an attempt to assess how effective and efficient they are and recommend solutions.

**Enjoy Most:**

The variety and constant challenge. Every audit is different and I am constantly having to learn new systems and new processes. I am always working with different people in different environments which is never boring.

Alison.Jones@unitab.com.au

**Best Experience:**

In terms of best experiences, I value the recognition and appreciation of managers. I enjoy it when, on completion of an audit, the Manager thanks you for your hard work and the Chief Executive recognises your efforts. I like feeling that my work has made a difference to the organisation. I also get a thrill when staff from the Technology department (usually men) come and ask me for advice. It is a good feeling to be asked your professional opinion.

**Characteristics:**

Interpersonal, communication & social skills:  
The ability to communicate to all levels of an organisation from the Chief Executive to programmers. Having a high standard of

interpersonal, communication and social skills makes it easier to communicate with staff and in turn quickly identify problems and efficiently and effectively resolve them. Being able to laugh and be social with staff also makes it easier to communicate with them on serious issues.

Analytical skills:

The ability to analyse and interpret information and apply existing knowledge to make reasonable assumptions and recommend solutions to problems.

Documentation:

The ability to formally communicate to all levels of the organisation. To express your research and work in a



visual report that is easy to understand for all readers. It is also important to keep effective personal

work papers to assist others in understanding your process of research and investigation for future reference.

Have fun!

It is really important to enjoy what you do. That is the reason I went to uni and studied ICT. You spend the majority of your waking life working, so you may as well make the most of it and do something that you enjoy and pays well too.

**Favourite website:**

I don't particularly have one favourite website but I have a few that I like a lot.

<http://www.cadbury.com.au> because I am a chocoholic and love the divine recipes

<http://www.george.net.au> I think they are awesome

<http://www.jeffbuckley.com> love him. love his album grace

<http://wotif.com> for great discounted places to stay

**Job Title:**

2nd year student at Griffith University and  
Part time IT Support at Wishart State School,  
Holy Cross School Woolloowin and Buranda  
State School.

**Job Description:**

A typical day at any school starts by fixing and maintaining all computers. Loading any software that teachers require for their class, making sure every thing is working. I then work with the classroom teachers helping and teaching classes how to use various software.

For example Year 1's play maths and reading games and year 7's do PowerPoint presentations. I help out in classrooms by answering questions and showing children where and how they can improve their work.

**Enjoy Most:**

I enjoy seeing children and teachers become confident with using a computer and realising that it can help and assistant them in everyday tasks.

**Best Experience:**

My best experience in my job so far has been where a preschool student asked me they could change the wallpaper of the preschool laptop to photos of his class members. And he did this all by himself.

**Characteristics:**Problem solving skills

Sometimes the problems aren't straightforward and therefore I need to rule out various possibilities.

Being organised

This has helped when working in classrooms as I have known what's needed to be done, and by when, to make classes run smoothly.

Listening skills

This is a very important aspect in my job, as I need to be able to listen to both students and teachers when they describe what they want to do with their class.



REBECCA  
DORRIES

**Favourite website**

[www.powderfinger.com.au](http://www.powderfinger.com.au)

go\_bec\_go@hotmail.com

**Job Title:**

Yr 12 Student at Cavendish Road State High School  
Job Description

Grade 12 High School Student. Studied IPT from grade 11 to present. IPT is a thoroughly rewarding subject as it allows you to open your mind to other possibilities. It requires that you think "outside the box" and this is a useful skill to have for future years.

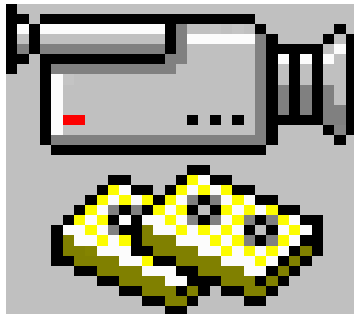
Katie Zoukav

**Enjoy Most:**

The most enjoyable part of the subject is the assignments on things like technology or artificial intelligence. Through studying these areas, I have become more aware of the technical side of things and now have more appreciation for technology as a whole.

**Favourite Website:**

<http://www.abc.net.au/triplej>

**Best Experience**

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Through doing IPT we were invited to an electronics workshop which proved to be quite enjoyable.

**Characteristics:**

- General computer knowledge
- Patience
- Creativity



Thanks to our

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