



From internships to inspiration

The IMNIS Initiative is growing and offering exciting opportunities for its alumni.

Navigating life as a PhD student or an early career researcher while trying to figure out your future can be confusing and strenuous. The journey to a steady and sustainable career in STEM isn't straightforward and can take a lot of unexpected turns.

Imagine facing those same challenges with an experienced guide by your side. Someone with real industry knowledge to help you find your direction, build your confidence, and point you to opportunities to hone and apply your skills.

The Industry Mentoring Network in STEM (IMNIS) is ATSE's flagship industry engagement initiative. We're proud to support and empower up-and-coming scientists, technologists, and engineers from diverse backgrounds across Australia. Now we're taking the initiative to the next level and changing the game for STEM careers in Australia.



Since it began, our mentoring program (now known as IMNIS Engage) has connected 1300 PhD graduates and early career researchers from 18 leading universities around Australia with supportive industry leaders.

Engage prepares Australia's future innovators to excel in all aspects of their careers. Mentors help their Mentees better understand the STEM industry, identify the skills they need to succeed, discover new opportunities, expand their professional networks, and think about their fields in ways they may have never considered before.

As this award-winning program grows from strength to strength, we're further enriching the mentee experience with two exciting new programs: IMNIS Ignite and IMNIS Catalyst.



IMNIS Catalyst is a 12-month ambassadorship program that equips competitively selected Engage alumni with the tools and opportunities they need to share their inspiring journeys.

The program, which successfully completed its pilot last year, showcases the diversity of talent in the sector to catalyse curiosity, endeavour and a love of STEM across society.

Our Catalysts champion science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by:

- sharing their stories at secondary schools in collaboration with other ATSE programs such as STELR
- speaking at IMNIS events such as Visionary Leadership and Engaging with Industry
- providing peer mentoring to current IMNIS Engage Mentees.



ATSE will soon launch IMNIS Ignite: a postgraduate internship program that gives Engage alumni paid, real-world industry experience and a direct bridge into professional STEM careers.

By connecting our brightest sparks with three or six-month projects at diverse host organisations, we're helping ignite the engine of Australian innovation.

We're also addressing the STEM workforce skills gap by giving businesses, government, and non-profits access to skilled, motivated researchers with deeper understanding of how to apply their skills in an industry context.



IMNIS Alumni stories



Dr Edith Botchway
IMNIS Catalyst 2021

For me the most impactful thing I've learnt from this Catalyst program is the idea of thinking of myself as a leader irrespective of where I'm at, or which stage of my career I'm in. I mainly got that idea from Professor Joanna Batstone's keynote presentation during our Visionary Leadership program.

Specifically, what she shared about being a leader in her research sphere, combining family and work and everything else that comes along with it. I found that particular idea very empowering. Going forward, it's helping me and will help me to make an impact wherever I find myself.



Thilanka Morawakage
IMNIS Catalyst 2021

The IMNIS Catalyst program has made a difference to me by providing me with opportunities to raise my profile, build my science communication skills to confidently communicate and influence others and has allowed me to connect with like-minded people.

The skills and knowledge I've gained, and interactions I have had through this program will help maximise my opportunities to gain experiences in science communication and advice from experts in the years to come.



Catriona Nguyen-Robertson
IMNIS Catalyst 2021

What's incredible about the IMNIS Catalyst program is that it's still taking shape. The things that are outlined that you might get the chance to do, might not be an extensive list, but you get new opportunities thrown at you because you are an IMNIS Catalyst.

It can provide you with more opportunities than you can think of and even take you in directions you may not have considered going in.



Dr Jana Phan
IMNIS Mentee 2016/2017

People tell you that there are multiple, diverse career paths outside of academia, but I don't think I really understood how this would be possible for me until I could grasp how my skills were valuable and could be transferred into other careers. IMNIS gave me exposure to the 'outside world'.



Dr Anjaleena Anthony
IMNIS Mentee 2017/2018

You become aware of the latest opportunities, market shifts as well as just knowing where others are on their career journey and having the ability to share your own journey.

GET INVOLVED

IMNIS Ignite and **IMNIS Catalyst** harness the sense of momentum and connection that comes from completing an **IMNIS Engage** mentorship.

These programs highlight the exciting world of diverse career choices that await our alumni.

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about the IMNIS Initiative and these new opportunities, please contact us:

IMNIS@atse.org.au