Fifteen Brazilian students, enrolled in WIL unit Engaging With Industry, completed a summer work integrated learning experience in the Curtin led Centre for Wine Excellence at Margaret River Education campus. The Chemical Engineering students have come to Curtin through the Science Without Borders program sponsored by the Brazilian Government.

On campus at the Margaret River wine making facility for a one week intensive program, students attended lectures on the wine making process and then headed out to the vineyard for first hand experience picking and pressing grapes. During these sessions students had opportunities to learn about the chemical processes that occur during fermentation and conducted sensory evaluations at key stages of wine production, adjusting additives and ingredients to develop wine qualities. Students also learned about the importance of managing hygiene and OSH requirements in the workplace. WIL Project Manager, Linda Lily, said the goal of the opportunity was to give students practical knowledge, experience and skills through authentic work experience.

“The students experienced an Australian workplace environment, with activities related to their major – this unit encourages students to apply classroom theory to real life working practice.”

The WIL unit, Engaging With Industry, is offered as an optional or elective unit that provides a curricular WIL experience. The unit includes pre-briefings, supervision and debriefings post placement. Authentic assessments include a Project Proposal, creation of a Professional Profile and a Project Report. Engaging With Industry is being offered in semester two and is open to all students. For more information please contact Academic Lead, Sonia Ferns, at s.ferns@curtin.edu.au
Curtin Mechanical Engineering students Irfan Mehfooz and Ali Alshemary connected with industry whilst completing a supervised internship with Imdex Limited. Imdex is an ASX listed company, which provides innovative drilling fluids and advanced downhole survey instrumentation to the mining, oil and gas, water well, horizontal directional drilling and civil engineering industries worldwide.

Irfan, a Mechanical Engineering student, saw the internships advertised on the WIL at Curtin Facebook page and jumped at the opportunity to apply. “I was looking for any sort of exposure to the industry; this internship was an excellent opportunity for me.”

He says, “I was given a mini project to work on at the start; which required reverse engineering - measurement to design of a downhole instrument calibration unit. The second project, which I am currently working on, requires design modification and performance improvement of a down-hole instrument.”

With a focus on developing industry relevant skills, students have the opportunity to work on real projects, guided by and in liaison with high level technical professionals, and in a world-class and purpose built facility.

Irfan said that a highlight of his experience at Imdex has been working with senior engineers. “It has been really interesting and seeing how things actually get done in the industry.” In particular Irfan has been able to observe the impact of deadlines in the workplace and has become more familiar with on-site processes. Irfan has found Imdex highly supportive and welcoming.

Engineering students must complete 480 hours of professional experience in order to qualify as an accredited engineer.

Imdex Limited is accepting applications for their next internship program, closing date 29 April. Go to facebook.com/wilatcurtin for further information.