

Transcript

Title: How Pamidu's Professional Degree launched his engineering career

Creator: Swinburne University of Technology

Year: 2026

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PAMIDU: When I was a kid, I really liked to play with different machines or whatever I could get my hands on. I just really liked problem solving, whatever the situation was. My name is Pamidu Perera and I studied mechanical engineering at Swinburne.

PAMIDU: I think I was always interested in engineering because I really liked, like, maths and physics in school. I always thought that I was a logical problem solver, so I thought engineering would suit me.

PAMIDU: I actually never knew about the professional year at Swinburne until one of my friends said that he was doing it. So then I just looked into it and I saw that it was really easy to switch to a professional degree. I ended up doing my placement at Terra Firma Industries, they're a company that deals with fibre reinforced polymers. My role during the placement involved designing access structures. One day I would be on the computer all day just designing, trying to finish a design of, you know, a staircase or a ramp. And then the other day, I could, I could be spending half the day on the, on the shop floor. At the end of my placement, Terra Firma offered me a full time role as a project engineer.

PAMIDU: Doing a placement is, I think, one of the best things that you can do, because it will help you get real industry experience before you finish graduating, which will make it much easier for you to either continue with the company or to land a new job once you've graduated. Looking back on my placement experience, what I really learned, about myself, was that I'm much more capable than what I thought I was. And it also helped me develop my confidence a lot. Also being an international student, I was always afraid that I wouldn't be able to fit in with Australian work culture. When I see something that I've made, on the computer, like in real life, you really feel like you're making an impact to other people's lives because you know that they're going to use your products or something that you've worked on, to help make their life easier.

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