Maximise your Opportunities
Join a Paid Work Experience Program @ HPE Specifically for People on the Autism Spectrum

Who We Are
Hewlett Packard Enterprise helps customers use technology to reduce the time it takes to turn ideas into value. In turn, customers transform industries, markets, and lives. We provide the cutting-edge technology and services solutions customers need to optimize their traditional IT while helping them build the secure, cloud-enabled, mobile-ready future uniquely suited to their needs.

In amongst all of this HPE have pioneered a program to employ people on the autism spectrum called The Dandelion Program, which is currently operating across Australia.

The Dandelion Program

In 2015 the Department of Human Services and Hewlett Packard Enterprise, together with Specialisterne, started The Dandelion Program to provide skilled employment for people in Australia on the autism spectrum. The program develops teams of people within an innovative delivery and autism support model to train to work in a variety of IT disciplines such as Software Testing, Data Analysis, Systems Monitoring and Automation, and Cyber Security with the Department of Defence. The trainees are employed by HPE’s ICT hubs across Australia.

The Dandelion Program is endorsed by the HPE Living Progress initiative, and you can read more by going to the Living Progress website at: www.hpe.com/livingprogress

For more information regarding the program itself, visit: www.dandelionprogram.com

The Dandelion Work Experience Program

The Dandelion Program Work Experience Program is designed as a four week holistic structured course to enable you to learn how software development projects happen in a large commercial organization such as HPE, in an autism-friendly environment.

The program is made up of a balance of learning and practical project work. The learning part teaches you the skills and techniques you need to know to build two cool robotics projects. The culmination of the project will deliver real value to a local school that works with autistic children. They will provide a school representative to act as the product owner or stakeholder, to work with your team and guide the outcome to deliver that value.

In the practical projects you will use the awesome Aldebaran NAO H25 robot (Google it!) to develop applications that autistic children can use at the partner school. Building these projects will give you the chance to show us what you can achieve, and how you approach problems and resolve them using the skills and abilities that you have.

The way you learn and develop the practical projects will be led by HPE technical capability managers and practitioners to provide you the techniques, processes and methods you will use
to deliver the two projects. During the practical projects you will work as part of a team of students who are also on the autism spectrum and together will develop two robot based applications during two separate three week project cycles. At the completion of both projects you and the team will nominate one of the two projects to implement into a live environment.

At the culmination of your work you will present your projects to a panel of HPE and university staff describing the lifecycle of the project, the challenges and how you solved them, as well as how you built, tested, and managed the applications. The final robotic application will be put to use in a live environment within the partner school in the local area that works with children on the autism spectrum.

The Work Experience Program is a great way to demonstrate what you can do, how you work with others, and contribute to the local community to benefit other people with autism.

The Benefits of The Program

Aside from being paid; you will enjoy other great benefits in kick-starting your career in IT. The HPE Dandelion Work Experience Program allows you to demonstrate your abilities, providing you the opportunity to possibly join the HPE team on a permanent basis depending on your assessment outcome. Benefits of the program include:

- Payment! HPE will pay you to participate in the Work Experience Program.
- HPE has the proven experience and understanding in assisting you with your autism needs through the Dandelion Program and Specialisterne. We will assign an autism specialist to work with you while you are on the Work Experience Program.
- You will be assessed to determine if you meet the skills required to enter the next HPE graduate program intake, following the completion of your degree studies.
- You may be suitable at the completion of your studies to be placed on the HPE Dandelion Program pre-assessed list. This would make you suitable to fill the next available HPE roles in the Dandelion Program when our customers make opportunities available. We’ll work that out as you participate in the Dandelion Work Experience Program.
- Trial the different roles in the software development lifecycle and decide whether they are what you want out of an IT career.
- Have the work experience fulfil the work placement requirement of your degree course and gain a credit where applicable.

How to apply for the HPE Work Experience Program?

Sounds great doesn’t it? To get involved, we’ll need to find out more about you and your autism. We’ll need the following from you:

1. An autism diagnosis from your doctor, specialist, psychologist, etc.
2. Whatever CV you have
3. Completion of an online questionnaire telling us about your autism needs

We work with the specialist organisation Specialisterne, who will review all this info and work out whether the program is a good fit for you.

If it is, then we will invite you to a one day workshop to meet you, have a chat, and check out your logical working methods using the amazing Lego Mindstorms EV3 kit to build a working robot.

The next step is for you to contact your university Disability Support unit and advise them you want to get involved. What have you got to lose?