



## NAWIC VIC Buddy Program

### About the Program

The **Buddy Program** is run by the **National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) Victoria Education Committee** with the primary aim of supporting students to navigate the transition from university to industry, successfully integrating into the workforce.

This is a unique, multifaceted program that pairs students with young professionals (buddies) in their first 5 years in industry to facilitate a knowledge share and provide a safe environment to explore unknown about their upcoming career transition. The program also includes formal workshops facilitated by industry professional and networking opportunities for students.

In 2026 we are aiming to expand the program to engage with four universities, with the intension being to maximise the opportunities we are offering to students transitioning into industry. We are offering 15 spots for each university with the program is available for Engineering, Construction Management, Project Management and Architecture students of all genders.

The program is scheduled to occur over 4 weeks consecutive weeks in April-May 2026.

### Program Objectives

1. Supporting students to navigate the transition from university to industry;
2. Providing a network for students as they enter industry;
3. Bridging the gap between university and industry; and
4. Aiming to reduce barriers to entry into industry.

### Program Structure (May 2026 Program)

1. Week 1: Workshop 1 – Career Pathways – April 28<sup>th</sup> 2026 (**Deakin University** to provide CBD facility)
2. Week 1: Buddy Catch up 1
3. Week 2: Workshop 2 – Industry Roles and opportunities– May 5<sup>th</sup> 2026 (**RMIT** to provide CBD facility)
4. Week 2: Buddy Catch up 2

5. Week 3: Workshop 3 – Transition from University to Industry and recruitment – May 12th 2026 (**Melbourne University** to provide CBD facility)
6. Week 3: Buddy Catch up 3
7. Week 4: Workshop 4 – Networking and Closing Event – May 19th 2026 (**Monash University** to provide CBD facility)

## Eligibility

### *Students*

- Students must be in their penultimate year (undergraduate degree) or final year (postgraduate degree) of their study.
- The program of study/degree should be in Architecture, Construction Management, Engineering or Project Management, or other Construction related course.
- Students are to apply via their university. Applications will be assessed by the respective universities.
- Student participants must commit to personal learning and professional development and growth, be willing to engage with their buddies and demonstrate a positive mindset.
- Students must commit to attending all Workshops and Buddy catch ups.

### *Buddies*

- Buddies are recruited by NAWIC.
- Buddies must have 1-5 years of industry experience.
- Buddies are paired with students in a ratio of 3:1 (subject to change).
- Buddies are required to apply via the relevant application form.
- The role of the Buddy is to share their experiences openly, promote engagement within the group, encourage broader thinking, and assist students to discover and find solutions for themselves. Acknowledging that some participants will be more vocal than others, the Buddy will endeavour to ensure all participants are heard.
- Buddies must commit to attending at least two workshops (workshop 1 and 4) and three Buddy catch ups.
- If you have any questions regarding your application for a buddy position, please contact VIC Education <[vic\\_education@nawic.com.au](mailto:vic_education@nawic.com.au)>.

## University Requirements

- Each University is required to facilitate the location of at least one Workshop. This involves providing a location for the workshop with capacity for 80-100 pax students free of charge to the NAWIC program. The location should have Microsoft Teams/Zoom capabilities.
- Universities are required to manage the student application and selection process.
- Universities are required to provide final student numbers and details by **April 1<sup>st</sup> 2026**.
- Universities to advise of any relevant university requirements / policies.
- Universities are not required to financially support the program other than provision of a venue.

## Sponsorship Opportunities

- NAWIC will work with an industry partner who is interested in sponsoring the program.
- All sponsorship funds will go towards facilitating the workshops with the opportunity for sponsors to attend the initial and final workshop i.e., launch and closing event.
- Any companies interested in applying should contact VIC Education <vic\_education@nawic.com.au>

**NAWIC are excited to be running the Buddy Program again in 2026 and look forward to hearing from you with any questions you may have.**