Work Experience: Creating Opportunities for Uni Students

TOM CASKA

Tom Caska talks to us about the new six week initiative he designed to raise awareness of QantasLink’s career path for University students at UNSW School of Aviation.

Since mid-last year, we’ve been setting up a partnership with the University of New South Wales School of Aviation to give students work experience opportunities.

We were overwhelmed with the many applications received, however as this was the first program, we felt it would be best to interview the ten most competitive students and select five. Fay Tsol and I conducted the interviews using the current pilot interview guidelines with a couple of extra questions about the Aviation industry.

After careful consideration, earlier this year we welcomed the first five students to embark on the inaugural Intern program.

Mathew Baker, Thomas Cawse, Philip Dias, Evelyne Surjana and Zac Roy. The program provided a fantastic learning opportunity for the University students and also offer extra experience across different areas of the QantasLink business.

Mathew worked with our Fleet and Technical team, reporting to Susan McHaffie. Thomas and Philip worked with Crew Resources, reporting to Fay Tsol and Zac and Evelyne worked in Flight Crew Standards and Training reporting to Peter Feiss and myself.

The students were given the unique opportunity to apply their Aviation knowledge and University research skills to a variety of real business projects.

They were also able to learn about the unique interaction of the various facets of the business with exposure to many different areas.

During the 6 weeks all students performed to a high calibre and completed valuable work for the business. It was also an excellent learning experience for the students preparing them for an exciting career in Aviation.

Due to the success of the program and great feedback from the students it is anticipated that this will be ongoing in the future.

Myself with Work Experience student Mathew Baker and Captain Robin Anderson.

Left to right: Philip Dias, Evelyne Surjana, Me, Zach Row, Mathew Baker, Thomas Cawse.