

OutStanding in the Field - 'In2 the Field'

Background

The 'OutStanding in the Field' programme is a major nationwide initiative funded by Meat & Wool New Zealand to recruit more young people into rural careers. The programme includes Experience Days for students, workshops, school visits and the development of a careers website to demonstrate the diverse opportunities. An extension of the 'OutStanding in the Field' programme is 'In2 the Field' - a programme linking senior secondary students to young Industry Mentors already working in fields that the students may wish to check out.

Purpose

This programme creates a valuable connection between the student and the young Industry Mentor. This will ideally be a student with the ability and genuine interest in a particular career within the agricultural industry, but who does not have the opportunity to investigate it closely. Students accepted into the programme will be given one-on-one contact with a young Industry Mentor. These Industry Mentors are employed in the industry and are willing to dedicate some time to help the student make the correct decision about their career pathway.

The 'In2 the Field' programme will provide students with enough knowledge about their chosen career to make an informed decision about work experience, tertiary education and potential employment.

This programme will run for a maximum of six months or until the end of the current school year, whichever comes first.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Young people who demonstrate genuine interest and ability but don't have a clear opportunity to explore their area of interest are invited to apply to join the 'In2 The Field' programme. The selection process is carried out by the 'OutStanding in the Field' team. There are a limited number of positions available in this pilot programme and there is no guarantee that Industry Mentors will be available for all applicants who meet the criteria.

The ideal candidate will be:

- Self motivated
- Very interested in a particular area of the agriculture industry or career direction
- Reliable, with a good attendance record at school
- Responsible and mature
- Someone who does not have direct access to the agricultural-based career/s of their interest
- Suitable for the career option that he/she is interested in
- Knowledgeable about what is involved in this programme. (Reading and understanding this document is important)

STUDENT SELECTION PROCESS

- The school provides information about 'In2 The Field' for students, parents and staff via the 'OutStanding in the Field' website or from an information newsletter
- Students complete an 'In2 the Field' application form
- Student applicants must have approval from a parent/guardian and an endorsement by the school
- Selected students are linked to a mentor in their field of interest

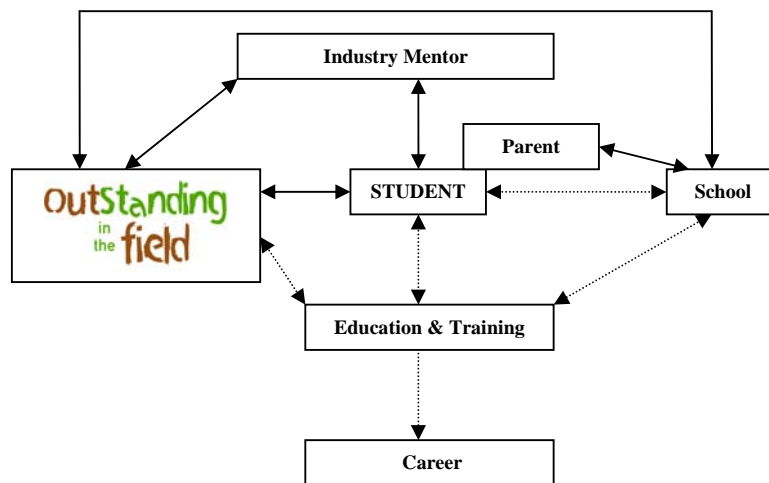
COMMUNICATION PLAN

Communication will be monitored and recorded by the 'OutStanding in the Field' team by a series of communications with the student, industry mentor and school representative.

The Industry Mentor is expected to make the initial call and maintain regular contact, however we also expect the student to initiate communication. We recommend that contact is made between Industry Mentor and student at least fortnightly.

Any means of communication can be used: telephone, text, email, social networking site/s or a combination of. 'OutStanding in the Field' *Facebook* and *Bebo* identities will be established for participants to *add as a friend*, this will add the benefits of an open forum with additional advice and information.

The 'OutStanding in the Field' team will contact the student, teacher and industry mentor three times each within the programme's timeline. Outside of these contacts, the 'OutStanding in the Field' team is available for additional communication.



| | Role | Actions |
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| Industry Mentor | Maintain first line of communication with the student via telephone, text, email or the 'OutStanding in the Field' social networking site/s | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive training and information from 'In2 the Field' to follow a standardised plan • Gain approval from their company to be an 'industry mentor' • Supply a profile on 'OutStanding in the Field' website • Have an understanding of the 'OutStanding in the Field' programme • Seek relevant information to pass onto the student/s • Follow the communication plan, record and report to 'OutStanding in the Field' on progress with their student/s • Must respond to the student's communications in a timely manner • Must be committed for the duration of the programme |
| Student | Be an active participant in the programme and always give honest feedback so that the 'In2The Field' programme can effectively assist in identifying an appropriate career pathway | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be prepared to ask questions and engage with the industry mentor to capitalise on their experience and knowledge • Must openly and honestly communicate progress with teacher / parent / 'OutStanding in the Field' team • Must respond to the mentor's communications in a timely manner • Be committed to the process for the duration of the programme |
| 'OutStanding in the Field' team | Programme coordinators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select the students and industry mentors • Ensure that the industry mentor's input with the student is significant without being too time consuming • Co-ordinate the programme and be available to all parties • Refer work experience opportunities to the school contact so that they can make the necessary arrangements • Make contact with all parties a minimum of three times each within the programme's timeline (start, middle and end) • Seek out information on career and tertiary education opportunities for the mentor to provide to the student • Liaise with tertiary education provider/s and make the introduction with the student • Be prepared to change or terminate the mentor/student relationship if it is |

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| | | not productive |
| School Representative | Secondary education liaison and work experience coordinator | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorse the student's application • Encouraging the students' active participation • Maintain contact with the student's parent(s)/caregiver(s) • Be available to discuss progress with the 'OutStanding in the Field' team at least three times throughout the programme • Use the benefit of the 'In2 the Field' programme to feed into work experience opportunities e.g. The Gateway programme |
| Tertiary Education Provider | Tertiary education enrolment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to requests from 'OutStanding in Field' to contact student/s and school to ensure the correct education programme is selected to support the chosen career |