The Design Action Program facilitates opportunities for RMIT Industrial Design students and recent graduates to work together with host organisations for mutual benefit. It integrates placements and work experience into the Bachelor of Design degree program, and fosters internship opportunities for graduates.

Design activity undertaken in the program can occur flexibly, allowing students and recent graduates the opportunity to work with a range of host organisations in business, educational, community and government settings, on real world issues with outcomes that matter.

John Burne
Infrastructure Coordinator, CERES

It was important for Kate to understand the working principle of the solar thermal heat source and to have an appreciation of the social context that such technology has.

Kate was able to methodically approach the project to cover all aspects of the brief. Her folio illustrates a good breadth of exploration and collection of relevant imagery.

Kate’s work will be directly usable to create interest among funding bodies that could help realise this project. The folio also contains documents that can be used to communicate the concept to other specialists.

Kate Fayle
I was given the task of designing an educational interactive display for the solar thermal dish at CERES. My main challenge was to devise a structure to complement the design, while effectively communicating to the public what the dish is, how it works and the potential of this form of harvesting solar energy for domestic, commercial and industrial applications.

I was nervous and a little uneasy about presenting ideas outside the comfort of addressing my peers and lecturers at university, but CERES was a wonderful platform to test the waters.

One of my strengths is exploring a range of different things at concept stage, but I sometimes struggle to figure out a plan to actually make it work. Invaluable feedback from people in education, engineering and site-management, and specific questions concerning mechanisms, gave me an understanding of making a piece like this work in the public arena.

I particularly enjoyed the collaborative atmosphere of the CERES office. In such a space you can expand ideas and identify issues quickly. It has really inspired me to consider cross-disciplinary projects with students from other courses.

The project opened my eyes to educational, impact design work; Installation Design is potentially a pathway I would like to follow in the future. There is something very powerful about creating awareness about issues through art and design.

Kate Fayle with CERES, 2013