

January 2019



To whom it may concern

PRACTICAL/VACATION WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR BSc (MECHANICAL) DEGREE

As part of the degree programme, the School of Engineering requires each student to undertake a minimum of 13 weeks practical work which must include a workshop course, generally 1 week in length.

Workshop training is currently provided at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal and all students are now required to either complete this or undertake equivalent training through an external company. Workshop training should be completed by the end of the student's second academic year. Should an organization be in a position to offer Workshop Training within their own workshops, then the following requirements should be covered: workshop safety, basic hand tools; marking off and cutting; drilling; milling/turning/welding. A letter from the company should be handed to the student after completion of the training confirming what has been completed.

Students are expected to spend part of each long vacation doing practical work. Each student must submit a written report to the School within 6 weeks of the start of the subsequent semester. The report must describe in detail the practical work undertaken and must conform to the School requirements in respect of written reports. The report must be accompanied by a 'Certificate of Progress' (stating the dates worked) and to be signed by the employer (usually the direct supervisor).

As to the type of practical work required, this will depend on a number of factors such as the level of academic achievement of the student and the type of Industrial Organization the student is entering. Obviously, the technical difficulty of the work given to a first year student would not be the same as that given to a final year student.

Because of the range of acceptable practical work different organizations may offer, it is not possible to lay down exactly what the student must do.

Should any further information be required, please feel free to phone or email me.

Yours sincerely

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