

McLaren Racing Internship

LT Alina Hutton completed a 2 month internship late last year, as part of her mechanical engineering degree, with the McLaren F1 Racing team at the McLaren Technology Centre (MTC) in the UK.

"I have always had a very keen interest in motorsport, but never in a million years did I think I would have been given the opportunity to work at McLaren" Alina said.



McLaren is a name synonymous with motor racing, and their success is plain to see at the MTC. The sweeping, metal and glass-fronted facility highlights their place at the cutting-edge of engineering excellence. Step inside and you're greeted by the famed "Boulevard", proudly displaying some of the finest race cars ever developed and driven by the greatest drivers to ever step into a car – Ayrton Senna, Alain Prost, the man with his name above the door Bruce McLaren, and many more.

Gaining Experience in the world of Motorsport

Alina had initially reached out to Australian-based V8 Supercars teams when it came time to settle on a work experience placement. However, Alina had a big dream and took her shot for her chance in F1. Taking that chance led her to travelling to the other side of the world and being embedded in one of the most advanced mechanical engineering programs in the world.

V8 super cars offers many work experience placements for many roles including mechanics and engineers within Australia. If you are interested Alina highly encourages you to reach out and gain experience within the motorsport industry.

"I have now got my foot in the door which opens up so many possibilities within my time in Defence and after"



LT Hutton at MTC.

Opportunities with Defence

Completing work experience is a requirement of all Engineers alongside their degree in order to become fully qualified however, many roles require similar industry experience.

"It took a lot of admin in order to get my work experience approved in order to work and travel overseas however, there are times when it is worth fighting for a once in a lifetime experience" Alina said.

"Really there's no such thing as good luck, its good preparation and hard work"

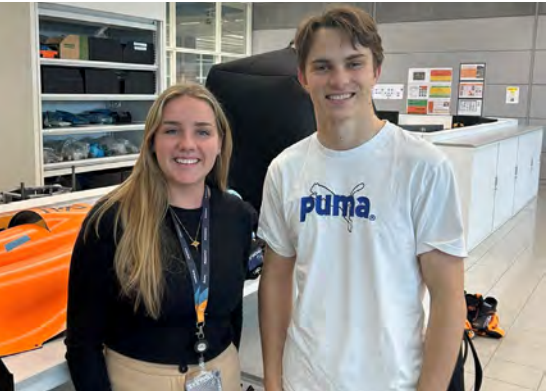
– Bruce McLaren

And, if you are still reading ... more on her time at McLaren



Spending time with a racing team also has some other perks – such as going for a spin in the McLaren Artura (capable of reaching speeds above 300km/h)

and meeting McLaren's Australian Formula 1 superstar, Oscar Piastri (right).



Of course, work experience is about more than fun perks and Alina says her time at McLaren was invaluable for her to gain a greater understanding about putting mechanical engineering concepts into practice.

"I was treated as an engineer in all aspects of my work. I was required to organise meetings, establish progress reports and complete the design process just as any other engineer in my department would." Alina said.

MEANWHILE ON THE TRACK ...

Azerbaijan 2024:
Piastri P1

Singapore 2024:
Norris P1, Piastri P3

Abu Dhabi 2024:
Norris P1

McLaren F1 won the constructors championship for the first time since 1998

Alina worked within the Design and Engineering Group at McLaren Racing and as a sign of the highly secretive environment those working in the ultra-competitive world of motor racing face, she was contractually obliged to not provide any specifics about what she worked on.

Last year also saw Alina commissioned as an officer in the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Corps. She will continue on her journey with the Australian Army in 2025, while also looking for opportunities to further explore her passion for racing – she is planning to complete her honours thesis with Porsche in Sydney.

And perhaps Alina will be lucky enough to be invited back to McLaren one day on a more permanent basis, considering her short stint with the team coincided with them winning the 2024 Formula 1 Constructors World Championship.

Luck? There's no such thing.

