



Mark Bathie (left) and Abhishek Sodhani, part of the winning CVSDude team

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## HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE THE RIGHT TOUCH

### **Abhishek Sodhani, MBA**

Abhishek Sodhani has some advice for international students looking to bag that first job in Australia — get involved.

Mr Sodhani, 25, left his job in India as finance manager at a crane-manufacturing company and came to study in Australia in 2006.

Now a financial analyst for Gold Coast-based IT company CVSDude, Mr Sodhani admits he struggled to get the professional experience he needed to break into the workforce.

“Once you get that first job, it just flows, but for overseas students it is really hard to know where to start,” Mr Sodhani said.

“People here don’t care about what you have done back home, they only look at Australian work experience and most students who have just arrived from overseas have no contacts and don’t know the culture or the companies,” he said.

But Mr Sodhani didn’t let these difficulties defeat him, instead seeking out hands-on experience.

Mr Sodhani worked 20 hours a week as a financial analyst for Brisbane Housing Company and was part of the winning team in last year’s Enterprize competition, which was awarded a no-strings-attached \$100,000 prize.

Through Tuscon, a postgraduate placement company, Mr Sodhani found out about the UQ competition, and was accepted as part of the CVSDude team, which won the \$100,000 prize.

Mr Sodhani went on to secure a full-time position with CVSDude but said the Enterprize experience alone would have been worth the effort.

“It widened my network of contacts and because people know about Enterprize it brings you to the notice of employers — it gives you an edge,” he said.