Developing professionals to meet industry needs

Hosting an undergraduate work placement is an ideal way to develop your future industry workforce and assist students to fulfil their career goals.

Get involved, see over for details.
What is work integrated learning?

Work integrated learning (WIL) describes a wide range of learning experiences undertaken by students to better prepare them for future employment.

One of the most beneficial WIL experiences is a work placement — working with a dedicated professional who can coach, mentor and supervise this important aspect of the student learning journey.

How do you benefit from hosting a student?

By hosting a WIL placement, you are able to:

- Access students with fresh ideas, enthusiasm and current discipline knowledge
- Trial potential employees on-the-job without obligation
- Add to your workforce in an inexpensive way to manage the busy times and/or consider those challenging projects you never get time to address!
- Provide mentoring opportunities to future leaders
- Input into the career development of tertiary students
- Build mutually beneficial partnerships with USQ.

How does the student benefit from the WIL experience?

Through a WIL placement, students are able to:

- Apply theoretical knowledge to the world of work
- Investigate vocational preferences through workplace exposure
- Build productive relationships with relevant industry professionals
- Develop essential career development skills, e.g. understand workplace expectations and professional standards of conduct and receive feedback.

What does the student do on the WIL placement?

Every WIL placement is different — flexibility is the key to success in tailoring a WIL placement that benefits both the student and the host organisation.

When designing a WIL placement, factors that should be taken into account include:

- The availability, resources and priorities of the employer, e.g. Are you looking for a potential employee? Do you need specific expertise to solve a particular problem?
- The needs of the student, e.g. When can they participate? What are their career goals? Do they have course requirements?

Consequently, the focus of each work placement will be different. It could be:

- Project work — a student examines a specific workplace issue negotiated with the employer
- Work shadowing — the student is partnered with an industry professional and develops deeper business insight
- Workplace rotation — the student links with a range of supervisors to develop a broad appreciation of work undertaken in your organisation.

How long does a WIL placement last?

The terms and duration of a placement are negotiated between the student and the host organisation. Examples include:

- 12 week vacation work (60 days)
- Industry Experience Program (maximum 30 days)
- Part-time, 2 days per week for 20 weeks (40 days).

Are the students paid?

This is at the discretion of the host organisation. WIL hosts often see the value of work placements and see entry level remuneration as an investment in their future. From a student perspective, remuneration is always well received!

What about insurance cover?

If the company is remunerating the student, then the student is covered by the organisation’s insurance arrangements (i.e. Work Cover).

If the placement is unpaid, then the university will arrange insurance cover prior to the placement commencing.

Why should you choose a USQ student?

USQ combines sound theory with a practical orientation creating a winning combination!

All USQ study programs are designed to enhance our graduates’ employability through the development of various skills including:

- Written and oral communication
- Interpersonal skills
- Teamwork
- Problem solving

- Management, planning and organisational skills
- Creativity, initiative and enterprise

How do you get involved?

For more information about how you can host a USQ student, please contact your nearest campus.

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