

ACEN sponsored workshop

Capacity building for industry partners: designing resources to support industry engagement in WIL

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Recent reports have highlighted the need for improved partnerships between industry and universities to inform Work Integrated Learning (WIL) curriculum. Support mechanisms for industry are deemed essential to strengthen partnerships and facilitate the development of students' professional capabilities through more robust industry feedback on performance. This workshop will discuss findings from an Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT) project aimed to enhance the capacity of industry to play a pivotal role in the student experience through developing industry-specific resources to facilitate engagement in WIL initiatives. The project adopted a mixed methods research methodology to identify industry needs which are clarified and contextualised through discussions with stakeholders.

Consultation with employers and WIL practitioners was undertaken to inform research findings leading to the development of user-friendly resources that meet the needs of industry partners. Strengthened partnerships between universities and industry will improve the WIL experience for students which in turn benefits employers, business, industry and the Australian economy.

Workshop participants will critique resources designed to assist industry partners in providing workplace opportunities for students. Resources developed include the following topics.

- Designing industry-focussed assessments
- Industry partners role in the assessment process
- Monitoring students' progress and providing feedback
- Negotiating and maintaining relationships
- Preparing students for WIL

The components of a WIL curriculum framework that complements the resources will also be presented and discussed.