

Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Study Abroad

Work Integrated Learning (WIL) is an applied approach to learning where you extend and apply learning beyond the classroom in a New Zealand workplace environment. It is a partnership between you, the University, and the host organisation.

The aim of this course is to provide you with an opportunity to:

- Develop aspects of your professional practice including intercultural competence
- Apply theory to practice
- Critically analyse your effectiveness and development in the workplace
- Identify any gaps in learning
- Analyse your New Zealand work-based experience with that of your home culture
- Develop a future career plan

Throughout the semester you will be supported by an Academic Supervisor at AUT. At regular meetings you will discuss how you are progressing in the placement, and you will receive guidance on assessment requirements.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course a student will be able to:

1. Critically reflect upon personal and professional development during the placement experience
2. Contextualise the placement organisation within the relevant professional and/or community environment
3. Critically evaluate the connection between the professional and/or community experience and academic learning
4. Demonstrate appropriate communication skills and styles relevant to the academic, professional and/or community environment

Assessment Overview

Learning agreement	(formative assessment – no weighting)
Progress report	20%
Annotated bibliography	20%
Oral presentation	20%
Reflective portfolio	40%

The Learning Agreement

The Learning Agreement is a key document in your WIL placement and will be the focus of your reflection and analysis in your portfolio. It is a formative assessment and does not contribute towards your final grade. It is a document that describes what you want to achieve during your placement (*learning aims*), the steps you will take to achieve them (*strategies*), and what you will be able to demonstrate at the end of your placement (*outcomes*). You will also identify tangible evidence which you will attach to your portfolio. It is recommended that you have three aims. These aims can be professional, personal, or academic.

When deciding on aims consider the following:

- Where are you at now?
- What weaknesses would you like to improve on or gain confidence?
- Do you have any strengths that you would like to develop further?
- Is there anything you would like to experience in the workplace for the first time?
- Are there any particular skills or knowledge you would like to apply?
- Is there anything about the industry or the New Zealand context of which you would like to gain an understanding?

Progress Report

The progress report provides a record of the WIL experience at the halfway point and requires you to reflect on your progress towards the achievement of your learning aims. You should also discuss and analyse any significant and/or critical incidents, reflect critically on your development and identify any shift in thinking from your initial expectations and the actuality of the placement.

Annotated Bibliography

Work Integrated Learning links theory with practice and you will be required to integrate relevant theory into your reflections in the final portfolio assessment. The annotated bibliography assessment will help you identify and record references relevant to you, your placement and your workplace learning experience. As a starting point you should aim to read on areas related to your learning aims and the strategies you have identified to achieve these aims. This will provide a foundation for further reading in preparation for the portfolio assessment.

Oral Presentation

The purpose of this assessment is for you to demonstrate your ability to discuss, analyse and reflect on your placement. The content of the presentation is based on a personal SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats). It is also an opportunity to share your WIL experience and what you have learned through the process.

Reflective Portfolio

The final assessment is a reflective portfolio. In the portfolio you will contextualise the placement by describing the organisation and role. You will reflect on each of your aims as identified in the learning agreement and reflect on the extent to which you met your intended outcomes. In addition, you will reflect on a key experience, make links to your previous studies, and discuss your future career plan.