



AUSTRALIAN COLLABORATIVE
EDUCATION NETWORK

Supporting Work Integrated Learning (WIL) in Australia

• March 2012 Newsletter •

ACEN eNews



In this issue

1. ACEN Student Scholarships
2. ACEN Research Grants • Up to \$10,000
3. New and renewing ACEN institutional members
4. State matters
NSW/ACT ACEN Chapter
May 14, 2012 - “Ethical Practices in Work Integrated Learning”
SA/NT recent forum now online
5. Lisa Westcott
6. Assessing the impact of Work Integrated Learning (WIL) on student work-readiness Project
7. WACE goes to Turkey • The 9th International Conference on Co-operative and Work Integrated Education
8. Fair Work Australia, Internships and Vocational Placements
9. Journal of Cooperative Education and Internships
10. Service Learning Summit 18 May 2012 • Griffith University
11. Academic Leadership for Fieldwork Coordinators
12. ACEN 2012 Conference • Keynote speakers
13. Conference workshops - Professional Development in WIL
14. Conference venue
15. Conference registration
16. Research Symposium
17. CAFCE Conference • July 29 – August 1, 2012 • Canada
18. You can contribute too
19. Contact us

1. ACEN Student Scholarships

In 2012 ACEN is offering five scholarships, each valued at \$1,500, to assist students undertaking placements. The scholarships will be awarded on a basis of the achievement of WIL outcomes plus evidence of hardship.

The placement must be:

- Undertaken in 2012
- In rural and remote locations which requires students to relocate from their home address

- Fulltime (4-5 days per week for a minimum of three weeks duration)
- Within Australia

Rural and Remote locations are those found in RA2- RA5 on the map:

<http://doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/Content/locator>

The scholarships are open to final year students in all disciplines from institutions that are financial members of ACEN.

Summary of applications received so far includes.

- Will you be engaged in the WIL activity for more than 4 days during EACH of those weeks?
Yes – 78; No - 7
- Will you lose any income during your attendance at the WIL placement?
Yes – 68; No - 17
- Will you earn any income while you are attending the WIL placement?
Yes – 9; No - 76

Direct your students to the [Online Application Form](#)

2. ACEN Research Grants • Up to \$10,000

ACEN aims to foster research and scholarship initiatives in Work Integrated Learning (WIL) by endorsing research and scholarship proposals and identifying and advancing WIL research and scholarship in priority areas.

In 2012 ACEN is offering funding for two research grants of up to \$10,000 each to conduct an investigation into either

- resourcing work integrated learning, or
- addressing equity issues in work integrated learning.

The grants are intended to:

- build the capacity for members of ACEN to undertake research into aspects of work integrated learning
- promote and supporting scholarship in work integrated learning
- develop effective mechanisms for identifying, developing, disseminating and embedding researched based practice in work integrated learning programs
- leverage opportunities for collaboration in research into the practices of work integrated learning.

Applications must be received by April 20, 2012.

[More](#)

3. New and renewing ACEN institutional members

The following institutions have joined or renewed since our last newsletter.

Welcome to:

- Central Queensland University
- Flinders University
- Griffith University
- James Cook University
- La Trobe University
- RMIT University
- University of Ballarat
- University of New England
- University of Southern Queensland
- University of Sydney

[Full list of institutional members](#)

Remember, you can now take out your own individual membership if your institution decides not to join.

4. State matters

NSW/ACT ACEN Chapter

May 14, 2012 - “Ethical Practices in Work Integrated Learning”

Registrations are now open for the forum on “Ethical Practices in Work Integrated Learning” organised by the NSW/ACT Chapter of ACEN. The forum will be held on 14 May at the University of Canberra. This will be a cutting edge and thought provoking forum with a number of excellent presenters who will be speaking on various aspects of ethics as it applies to Work Integrated Learning.

You can register at <http://acennswforum.weebly.com/>

This event is free for ACEN members and \$110 for non members.

Speakers and titles of presentations include:

- Professor Gerlese Akerlind, Director of the University of Canberra Teaching and Learning Centre
- Matthew Campbell, Lecturer - Work Integrated Learning, Griffith Institute for Higher Education (GIHE) - 'Educating for the ethical professional through work integrated learning'.
- Dr Michaela Baker, Academic Director of Participation, Faculty of Arts and Jacqueline Mackaway, Program Research & Development Officer, Learning & Teaching Centre, Macquarie University - 'Choosing ethical partners: one institution's efforts to engage in ethical partnerships'.
- Dr Bill Boyd, Professor of Geography, School of Environmental Science & Management Chair, Southern Cross University “First do no harm”: Educating for ethical practice.
- Teresa Swirski - Postdoctoral Fellow (Practice-Based Education) and Stephen Loftus, The Education For Practice Institute CSU - 'From practice to praxis: ethics in workplace learning'.

For any enquiries please contact Freny Tayebjee (f.tayebjee@uws.edu.au) or Theresa Winchester-Seeto (theresa.winchesterseeto@mq.edu.au) or Sarah Fletcher (sarah.fletcher@sydney.edu.au)

SA/NT Chapter

The presentation from the recent state forum ‘The Use of Web 2.0 Technology in Higher Learning’ is now online on the [ACEN Resources](#) page

5. Lisa Westcott

Recently Lisa Westcott (James Cook University) resigned from the ACEN National Executive. Lisa's contribution to ACEN, through a number of significant projects, has been invaluable. We thank Lisa for the time and expertise she has contributed to the development of ACEN and WIL.

6. Assessing the impact of Work Integrated Learning (WIL) on student work-readiness Project

Work-integrated learning (WIL) is an increasingly popular curriculum innovation. Based on the idea that students will be better-prepared for work or professional practice if they have opportunities to integrate theoretical knowledge with practice, WIL has origins in clinical disciplines and other practice-based professions including law, aviation and most creative disciplines. This project, the first of its kind in the Australian context, is designed to provide an empirical evidence base for the impact of WIL on students' preparedness for work or professional practice across multiple disciplines. This project will define WIL in terms of its essential characteristics – opportunities for students to experience highly authentic expressions of work-place practice, systematically built into curricula. The project will inform strategic curriculum reform investment in universities and related funding decisions across the

higher education sector.

[More](#)

7. WACE goes to Turkey

The [9th International Conference on Co-operative and Work Integrated Education](#)
“Where East Meets West and Theory Meets Practice”

Istanbul, Turkey, June 20-22, 2012

There are [significant discounts](#) for ACEN members (WACE member rate)

8. Fair Work Australia, Internships and Vocational Placements

Employers are often approached by interested people (such as students) hoping to gain industry experience to aid them in their own career path. Sometimes unpaid work arrangements are entered into. A common issue that can arise in these arrangements is whether or not an employment relationship has actually been created.

This fact sheet outlines some of the types of arrangements that can exist, the relationship between unpaid work and the relevant workplace laws and the problems that can sometimes occur. Each case will require a consideration of its own particular facts. Employers who fail to meet their obligations under the Fair Work Act 2009 (FW Act) can face penalties of up to \$33,000 per breach.

[Fact sheet](#)

9. Journal of Cooperative Education and Internships

The Journal of Cooperative Education and Internships, [Issue 2 of Volume 45](#), is now available online.

10. Service Learning Summit

18 May 2012 • Griffith University

Service learning is attracting growing interest in Australian universities, schools and not-for-profit organisations. This summit will provide an opportunity to explore the various dimensions of service learning and its connections to work integrated learning.

As Australian universities continue to increase their interest in service learning engagements for their students, the need for robust reciprocal partnerships with community organisations is critical to service-learning's continued growth. This year's summit will feature round table discussions to discuss the true nature of reciprocal relationships between higher education and the community and all stakeholders can ensure value through the relationships.

[Details](#)

11. Academic Leadership for Fieldwork Coordinators

In 2011 Charles Sturt University, with Curtin University, developed and piloted an Academic Leadership for Fieldwork Coordinators program with funding support from the ALTC. The final report on the program has recently been submitted to the ALTC.

In 2012 Charles Sturt University is running the program again and has a limited number of places we would like to offer to staff at other universities involved in workplace (work-integrated) learning.

The cost of attending the program is \$350 which includes the 3 days of the program, program materials, catering during the workshop and the participation in the 3600 feedback process.

Dates:

- 28 – 29 May 2012 General Staff
- 30 – 31 May 2012 Academic Staff

- 27 July 2012 Academic & General Staff

Venue: Albury-Wodonga Campus , Charles Sturt University, Elizabeth Mitchell Drive, Thurgoona NSW

Lunch and refreshments included

Register by 20 April 2012

Please contact Frances Colquhoun fcolquhoun@csu.edu.au

12. ACEN 2012 Conference • Keynote speakers

Ruth Wallace, Director, Social Partnership in Learning Research Consortium (SPIL)

Charles Darwin University and Director of The Northern Institute at Charles Darwin University, Darwin, NT.



The Northern Institute undertakes interdisciplinary research in the areas of social and public policy research and is critical to Northern Australia and its near neighbours.

Ruth's particular interests are related to engaging in research that improves outcomes for workforce stakeholders in regional and remote Australia. Ruth's research focus is in vocational education and training practice and workforce development in regional and remote contexts.

[More](#)

Professor Beverley Oliver, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Learning Futures, Deakin University



Beverley is ALTC National Teaching Fellow 2011 and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning Futures) at Deakin University, Australia. Through her National Teaching Fellowship (Assuring Graduate Capabilities), she is engaging curriculum leaders of undergraduate courses from any discipline to work with their colleagues, industry partners, students and graduates to: define course-wide levels of achievement in key capabilities, articulated through standards rubrics; embed the rubrics into student portfolios and course review portfolios and share the challenges and opportunities of such approaches through scholarly

publications.

Previous nationally-funded projects include: the ALTC Good Practice Guide: Assuring Graduate Outcomes, the ALTC Teaching Fellowship *Benchmarking partnerships for graduate employability* and an ALTC Competitive Grant *Building Course Team Capacity for Graduate Employability*. Beverley's leadership of other projects include: Curtin University's Curriculum 2010 project (curriculum reform focused on graduate employability, curriculum mapping, ePortfolios and evaluation of curriculum effectiveness) and eVALUate (Curtin University's online student feedback system).

[More](#)

Michael Malouf, Managing Director, Barwon Water



BEng (Civil), MBA, LGE, FIPAA, FAICD, FIEAust CPEng EngExec
Michael Malouf is Managing Director of Barwon Water, Victoria's largest regional water business.

Michael's previous positions include General Manager Property & Leasing at Pratt Holdings, Chief Executive of Carlton Football Club and Chief Executive at Melbourne City Council, City of Greater Geelong, City of Wyndham and City of Melton.

Michael is currently a Member of the Committee for Geelong, Director of G21 Geelong Region Alliance. Member of Deakin University Engineering Advisory Board

of the Geelong Regional Alliance, member of Deakin University Engineering Advisory Board and Geelong Community Leaders Group, IWA Executive Council, Chair of the Australian Division of the WasteReuse Association, Member of the Victorian Regional Development Australia Barwon South West Committee and Member of Future Proofing Geelong Advisory Board.

13. Conference workshops - Professional Development in WIL

Half-day Pre-Conference Workshop registration \$200.00 per workshop.

Workshops will run on 30 October 2012 – times to be advised shortly.

International Work-Integrated Learning

Presenter: Norah McRae, Executive Director of Co-operative Education Program and Career Services at the University of Victoria, B.C. Canada

Workshop Overview:

Across the globe universities are expanding their internationalization efforts in areas including research collaborations, international student recruitment and the development of students as global citizens. How can work-integrated learning support these strategic objectives? This workshop will provide participants with an overview of strategic, program and policy considerations for international work-integrated learning programs in light of this broader context.

[More](#)

Designing a Research Project and Getting it Published

Presenters: Richard K. Coll and Karsten E. Zegwaard, University of Waikato

Workshop overview:

This workshop is aimed at beginning researchers – that is researchers wanting to embark on a research project however are unsure how to design a valid research project, or researchers that have completed some research, perhaps having presented this at a conference, however are unsure on taking the non-trivial step of creating a good published journal article. The workshop will begin with exploration of the key fundamental aspects required for research to be valid, including overview of appropriate methodologies, specific methods of inquiry, and key aspects for researchers to be aware of when conducting the research. This will be supported by examples, and participants are encouraged to bring along their own examples that can be discussed. The second part of the workshop will look at the publishing process, what reviewers and editors look for, and explore examples of proceedings papers that have been stepped up to journal articles. Participants will be encouraged to expand their own proceedings paper to a journal article, and an opportunity for follow-up interaction beyond the workshop will be made available.

[More](#)

ePortfolios for sustainability: evidence of standards and outcomes in a WIL environment

Presenters: Jude Comfort and Sonia Ferns, Curtin University

Workshop overview:

ePortfolios are gaining increasing attention as a mechanism for students to collate and showcase artefacts which provide evidence of skills and attributes acquired through curricula and extra-curricular experiences. Furthermore, as universities transition into a standards based regulatory environment, the need to demonstrate student outcomes will become increasingly important as an accountability measure for employers and other stakeholders. While work-integrated learning (WIL) is acknowledged as a strategy for integrating theory within a practice based context, assessing WIL presents multiple challenges given its multi-dimensional and complex nature.

[More](#)

Service-learning

Presenter: Carol-joy Patrick, Griffith University

Workshop overview:

Considering service/community learning as an expression of work integrated learning. There are a variety of ways that service or community-learning can be considered advantageous to students' academic, professional and personal developments. This workshop will specifically explore the alignment of service/community learning as an expression of work-integrated learning by considering the advantages accrued by students who participate in service activities in the community which are often additional to the outcomes of professionally-oriented work-integrated learning activities. One of the foci of the workshop will be to consider how WIL outcomes can be achieved through service/community-learning and explore how this integrated approach has been used to effect in American higher education, and how that experience relates to the Australian context.

[More](#)

14. Conference venue

The Geelong Waterfront Campus is Deakin's newest Campus, located on Corio Bay, in



the central business district of Geelong. Originally built as woolstores in 1893, the buildings have been extensively renovated to create a modern and impressive Campus centre. More than 2100 students are based at the Geelong Waterfront Campus which hosts the School of Architecture and Building, the School of Health and Social Development and the School of Nursing.

The redeveloped Dennys Lascelles Building houses the Alfred Deakin Prime Ministerial Library and the Alfred Deakin Research Institute, an interdisciplinary teaching and research centre covering political science, public policy and governance, international relations, globalisation, journalism and communications.

Other areas of study offered at the Geelong Waterfront Campus include architecture and construction management, nursing, occupational therapy and social work.

15. Conference registration

[Registration](#) is now open and discounts are available to ACEN members

16. Research Symposium

Just prior to the Conference, the ACEN Research Symposium 2012 will be held on October 29 at Victoria University. This Symposium is designed for those people already engaged in researching aspects of work integrated learning and will take the form of a workshop where participants will collaborate to develop research proposals for the future. The Outcomes of the Symposium will be presented to delegates at the 2012 ACEN National Conference.

[More](#)

17. CAFCE Conference • July 29 – August 1, 2012 • Canada

CAFCE 2012 "Higher Learning. Hire Aspirations"

Early Bird Registration rates are available.

Proposals for presentations, panel discussions, and workshops accepted till April 10, 2012.

[More](#)

18. You can contribute too

Space permitting, in this newsletter we'll share news about state, national and international events, research, projects, position vacancies and more. Submit material by the 10th of each month for distribution a few days later.

19. Contact us

ACEN

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