



AUSTRALIAN COLLABORATIVE
EDUCATION NETWORK

Supporting Work Integrated Learning (WIL) in Australia

• May 2012 Newsletter •

**'Collaborative Education: Investing in the future'
2012 ACEN National Conference - The Nation's Premier WIL
Conference**
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Hi %%firstname%%

ACEN eNews

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1. From the National Director

Nearly the end of semester 1 2012 and already the year is flying by. A quick reminder to register now for the ACEN National Conference to be held at Deakin University in Geelong. This conference, which is held ONLY every second year, is a wonderful opportunity to network with WIL colleagues from across the country and hear about the latest research and best practice. The growing reputation of WIL in Australia and ACEN conferences generally is resulting in an increasing number of registrations from International colleagues this year from Canada, UK, NZ and Sweden who will be sharing WIL developments in their countries. Several

of them are also running pre conference workshops.

ACEN 's international partnerships continue to grow with our first webinar offered in conjunction with the UK and Canadian associations recently on International Exchanges. The highlight for me was hearing how our Canadian colleagues extracted around 10 WIL students from the Tsunami hit regions in Japan... risk management in action! ACEN is also very pleased to be offering our first webinar in partnership with our New Zealand colleagues (more detail later in the newsletter). This is a great and convenient way to participate in valuable professional development without leaving your desk or couch, dependent on the time of day.

ACEN continues to break new ground with the awarding of our first research grants focused for this round on key priority areas for WIL in Australia, resourcing and equity issues. Outcomes of these research projects will be shared with all ACEN members. In this semester we have also launched LinkedIn for ACEN members which will be a valuable platform for dialogue, discussion and sharing information. I would encourage you to join and participate. (Details below.)

The National Executive has also been busy with the 2012 round of student scholarships, a range of successful state based activities and progressing a range of governance changes that will be outlined at the AGM, to be held at the National Conference. I would also like to warmly welcome Nicole Manapol from Charles Darwin University who has been co-opted onto the National Executive. Finally there is a contingent of 30 or so Australians travelling to Istanbul for the upcoming WACE symposium in June. ACEN has organised a get-together for the Australian delegates and will provide impressions of the Symposium in future ACEN newsletters.

Judie Kay

National Director, Australian Collaborative Education Network

2. 'Collaborative Education: Investing in the future'

ACEN National Conference

The Nation's Premier WIL Conference

[Register Now](#)

29 October to 2 November 2012



Papers and presentations

We received over 110 abstracts and proposals which have been accepted by the program committee for the conference. We are currently awaiting the submission of full and concise papers that will be sent out for blind review in June.

Proposals were submitted under the conference theme as follows:

- Challenges and innovation in the design and delivery of WIL
- Impacts of WIL on graduate outcomes and employability
- Shaping stakeholder partnerships for future WIL success including service and community based learning
- Future directions in assessment in WIL including e-portfolios

- Showcasing collaborations with industry
- Emerging technologies and their impact on WIL

Presenters have been notified of their acceptance or otherwise.

Program outline

The submissions give greater shape to the program detail and the overall program looks like this:

October 29 - Research Symposium at Victoria University

October 30 - Preconference workshops at Deakin University, Geelong Waterfront Campus

The workshops are

- **ePortfolios for sustainability: evidence of standards and outcomes in a WIL environment** - Presenters: Jude Comfort, School of Public Health at Curtin University and Sonia Ferns, Manager, Course, Office of Assessment, Teaching and Learning, Curtin University
- **Designing a Research Project and Getting it Published** - Presenters: Richard K. Coll, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) and Director of Cooperative Education, University of Waikato. and Karsten E. Zegwaard, University of Waikato
- **Improving WIL Outcomes: The 3P approach using rubrics** - Presenter: Dr Karen Young, Faculty of Science and Technology, Deakin University
- **International Work-Integrated Learning** - Presenter: Norah McRae, Canadian Association For Co-operative Education and Executive Director of Co-operative Education Program and Career Services, University of Victoria, Canada.

October 31 - Conference sessions at Deakin University Geelong Waterfront Campus

November 1 - Conference sessions Deakin University Geelong Waterfront Campus

November 2 - Conference sessions Deakin University Geelong Waterfront Campus

Keynote Bulldog

A new keynote speaker is Simon Garlick, Chief Executive Western Bulldogs.

The Western Bulldogs (an Australian Rules football team for the uninitiated) have a comprehensive strategic partnership with Victoria University that includes an extensive program of WIL.



3. ACEN and NZACEWork Integrated Learning (WIL)/Cooperative Education Webinar

Monday, May 21, 2012

Australia EST: START 10.00 a.m. and finish 11.30 a.m

New Zealand ST: START 12 noon and finish 1.30 p.m.

Hosted by QUT

'Resources to Support WIL/Cooperative Education'

'Developing Reflective Approaches to Writing in WIL/Cooperative Education'

- Dr Andy Martin (Associate Professor, Academic Fellow Applied Learning, Massey University)
- Dr Mary Ryan is a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Education at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane.
- Michael Ryan is a senior lecturer at Queensland University of Technology

More details about the speakers and how to join in

The webinar will be recorded and this will be made available to members.

4. State events

WA

ACEN WA Curriculum and Pedagogic Practices for Work-Integrated Learning with Prof Stephen Billett on May 29, 2012 at Murdoch University

SA/NT

WIL Forum Topic: Risk Management

June 20th 2012 9:30am to 12noon

Flinders University - City

Victoria Square, Adelaide

An opportunity to hear case studies from those who have implemented Risk Management initiatives in Work Integrated Learning topics. A great opportunity to share experiences, learn from colleagues, and network with peers. More

Queensland

ACENQ is hosting the webinar with New Zealand on May 21, 2012 (see elsewhere in this newsletter).

Queensland ACEN Chapter

QUT will host this rescheduled ACENQ event in collaboration with NAGCAS Qld (National Association of Graduate Career Advocacy Services).

This video conference event will be held from **9.30-12.30pm on Thursday 14th of June** in O Block, Room 603, Gardens Point Campus, QUT and will connect with Queensland regional universities via video conference. For video conference room details at CQ University please contact Ian Devenish I.Devenish@cqu.edu.au at JCU please contact Lisa Westcott lisa.westcott@jcu.edu.au

For other information please contact Dr Deborah Peach, ACENQ Chair d.peach@qut.edu.au or Raleigh Wallace, NAGCAS Qld r.wallace@cqu.edu.au

ACT/NSW

The NSW/ACT Chapter of ACEN held a very successful forum on Ethical Practices in Work Integrated Learning on Monday 14 May at the new (yet to be formally opened) Inspire Centre at the University of Canberra. The forum was attended by approximately 65 staff from 15 universities including interstate universities.

The keynote address was delivered by Prof Gerlese Ackerlind Director Teaching & Learning Centre, University of Canberra. Speakers included Matthew Campbell (Griffith University), Dr Michaela Baker & Jacqueline Mackaway (Macquarie University), Dr Bill Boyd et al (Southern Cross University) and Teresa Swirski (Charles Sturt University).

All the speakers were thought provoking and generated spirited discussions on topics such as: how unethical behaviour can coexist with a beautifully written code of professional practice, the difficulties in identifying organisations that can be considered “unethical”, and how best to prepare students when they are confronted with unethical behaviour which is widely accepted in the workplace. Attendees shared their personal experiences which made the forum even more valuable.

A number of very positive comments were received immediately after the forum (the formal feedback survey is yet to be conducted) indicating that delegates found the forum useful and inspiring as well as an opportunity to network with staff from other universities who shared their concerns and interests.

Powerpoints of presentations and audio tapes will be accessible from the ACEN website shortly.

The team members of the NSW/ACT Chapter of ACEN who (once again) organised this very successful event are:

Sarah Fletcher (University of Sydney)

Laurie Grealish (University of Canberra)

Des Saunders (UTS)

Freny Tayebjee (UWS) and

Theresa Winchester-Seeto (Macquarie University)

Victoria

La Trobe University has kindly volunteered to organise a WIL event for the Vic/Tas chapter in June (date and time to be advised) in Melbourne. The theme of this event will be 'simulated WIL' where we explore WIL models that increase access and participation in experiential learning.

We are looking for exemplars in simulated WIL to showcase at this event - if you have any from your institution that you would like to nominate please contact [Dineli Mather](#) in the next 2 weeks.

5. ACEN Student Scholarship update

One hundred and twenty-three complete and eligible applications for the five scholarships, each valued at \$1,500. Eligibility was limited to those students undertaking work placements in rural and remote locations requiring students to relocate from their existing place of residence. Rural and remote locations were determined on the basis of the RA2- RA5 on the National Map from the Australian Government, Department of Health and Aging (Doctor Connect).

This year Curtin had 20%, Flinders had 16% and Griffith 14% of the applications, Table1. The number of applications is likely due to the promotion of the scholarship opportunity at those universities. All students at universities that are members of ACEN are eligible to apply.

Table 1: 2012 Applicants by university

University	Number of applications
Curtin University of Technology	24
Flinders University	20
Griffith University	17
Monash University	14
Universities with less than 10 applications were Western Sydney, Southern Cross, Charles Sturt, James Cook, Victoria, Sydney, Central Queensland, Notre Dame, Edith Cowan, Murdoch, Queensland University of Technology, RMIT, Canberra, Newcastle, Queensland, South Australia and Southern Queensland.	

When the applicants were analysed by degree B. Nursing had 33 and B.Med. B. Surgery 10. There were less than 10 from other degrees.

Fifty-six percent of the 123 applicants for the 2012 scholarship said they would need to pay rent at the location of the WIL placement while continuing payment for their existing place of residence. Eighty-two percent said they would lose income whereas 10% said they would earn income while on placement. Fifty-eight percent cited rent, 60% food and 81% transport as out-of-pocket expenses during WIL.

Candidates who placed on the short-list after round one of analysis have been asked to provide specific evidence by July 31. Applicants will be notified of the outcome by August 31, 2012.

Thanks to the excellent work of Sonia Ferns and her team, we received Ethics Approval from Curtin University to publish the data collected 2010-12. This means we can publish information related to the costs associated with WIL for students in Australia which will better inform the sector.

[Scholarship information](#)

6. ACEN Research grant update

Nine applications were received for ACEN Research Grants which are valued at \$10,000 each, The two successful applications will be notified shortly and information published on the website.

7. ACEN LinkedIn Group

The ACEN LinkedIn Group is a members only environment for discussion, networking and sharing information around work-integrated learning. We now have over 150 members in the group with a handful of discussion threads already in progress.

By now all ACEN members will have received an invite to join so feel free to accept the invitation and use the environment to connect with other ACEN members, raise discussions, share insights and seek help and advice on WIL (and other practice-based education) issues. If you come across interesting literature, research findings, news items relating to WIL please post on the site so members can engage with these materials and maybe even add similar resources. We look forward to the discussions and connections that may grow in the space.

8. Fair Work Australia to research unpaid work practices

The Fair Work Ombudsman has launched an investigation into the prevalence of unpaid work experience and internships in Australia. This 6 month project is being undertaken by a team from the University of Adelaide Law School. The ACEN National Director, Judie Kay has met with the team and offered to assist them through the ACEN network in gathering information for the project.

Shortly an online survey will be emailed to ACEN members to gather information relating to the prevalence of unpaid work that is not for credit or a required part of a program, benefits and advantages arising from participation by students in these unpaid work experience or internships, identifying any institutional controls that exist in relation to such experiences and any other comments or insights you might have .

So this will be an opportunity for all ACEN members to put their views forward and I would encourage you to consider the issues and participate in the anonymous survey when it is sent to you .

[FWA Media release](#)

[FWA Fact sheet](#) on Internships, Vocational Placements & Unpaid Work

9. "Assessing the Impact of WIL on Student Readiness for Work" Project

Members of this OLT-funded project joined the three Leads, Calvin Smith ,Sonia Ferns and Leoni Russell, for a day meeting in Sydney this month, to advance their work. This productive time facilitated enjoyable collaboration and productive discussions on the dimensions of employability among other things.

Progress will be reported at the ACEN conference.

[More project information](#)

10. 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.

11. Contact us

ACEN

www.acen.edu.au

admin@acen.edu.au

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