

## MINUTES

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### Work Integrated Learning

<b>Date:</b>	21/4/2021
<b>Time and venue:</b>	5:00pm – Webex Meeting
<b>In attendance:</b>	Emilie, Swetta, Sebastian, Michaela, Travis, Simran, Divyangana, Amanda, Nisura, Theresa
<b>Apologies:</b>	Anandpreet
<b>Minute's secretary:</b>	Sebastian Garrido

#### 1. Welcome & Apologies.

Anandpreet could not attend the meeting.

#### 2. Discussion Theme – Work Integrated Learning (WIL)

##### 2.1 Definition of WIL

(Emilie) - The aim of WIL is to ensure that students develop the ability to integrate their learning through a combination of academic and work-related activities.

(Divyangana) – Having the practical education that is related to the field of education.

(Simran) – Doing a project or activity that prepares the student for the workforce.

##### 2.2 Are all students receiving some sort of WIL in their course?

(Divyangana) She is receiving constant placements during her studies that support her and shows her what it is like working in a hospital.

(Simran, Sebastian) Have a placement where they are creating a project for a client, they get to use what has been learned during the degree, but do not have a professional guidance, or an opportunity to network inside the industry.

(Nisura) Has no work placement opportunities as part of his Construction Management Degree.

(Theresa) There is no placement in her course (Bachelor of Accounting), they are trying to get some sort of professional experience by volunteering or looking for other ways to get that industry connection.

2.3 How effective is WIL for students? Are students able to apply academic knowledge to their work experience?

There is a mix of feelings when it comes to WIL that is very dependent to the course, and the industry it is related to.

Some students have great opportunities where they learn and use their knowledge as well as having the opportunity to network inside their industry (Hospitality, Nursing).

Some students have some sort of placement where they can use what they learned but the networking and professional guidance is low (IS and IT).

The placement for IS students did not have options (Networking, Cloud Computing, etc.) to choose from and the topic was widely focused on a single aspect of the course (Programming).

There is no placement for Accounting students, but there are placements for Business Administration.

2.4 Does work integrated learning benefit you or do you feel as if you are just working for the company?

(Travis) – There is benefits from working in his placement, he is getting the experience necessary to work in a professional environment.

(Divyangana) – She is getting good experience out of her placement and it is beneficial.

- She also mentions that there were issues with placements in Aged Care houses that some students had, but Holmesglen already addressed those issues.

(Simran) – You get benefits from dealing with a client and applying skills learned through the course, but there is a lack of connection with other important aspects of the course and industry that are not addressed.

(Swetta) – The opportunities that are available are not wide enough, and the placements are not related to what the student is trying to pursue for her career (She is looking for a Hotel setup, but there are only placements in restaurants).

2.5 Has COVID-19 impacted WIL learning experience? If so, how can Holmesglen better help provide opportunities for students to receive that work experience?

(Travis) – Due to COVID their course has not been able to start placements.

(Divyangana) – She has been able to continue with her placements, but she expressed that there are many students from her same course that have not been able to start their placements.

(Swetta) – There are no placements available and is up to the student to look for the placements, including using the current workplace.

### **3. Communication leading up to and post WIL experiences.**

#### **3.1. Do students feel prepared when entering WIL opportunities?**

(Emilie) – It is beneficial to have the placements at the last stages of the courses because students feel prepared, and international students have the opportunity to adapt.

(Swetta) – In her course they get to learn how to think professionally so when their placements start, they are prepared to assume a management position (Hospitality).

#### **3.2. Is communication about WIL delivered in a timely manner?**

(Sebastian) – During the orientation week they mentioned the placements and some of the industry connections that Holmesglen has.

(Divyangana) – Placements were not mentioned early on, but they are part of the normal course structure and they are frequent (Nursing).

#### **3.3. How do you provide feedback on your WIL experiences?**

(Swetta) – students need to keep a journal that is submitted to count the placement hours.

(Travis) – There is assessments that are provided during the placement where they can provide reflections, and they get to have teachers assessing the workplace (Youth Work).

(Divyangana) – They are assessed by a clinical professional at the facility. At the end of the placement, they get an anonymous survey to provide feedback. Holmesglen staff attends the placement during the semester to see how things are going.

#### **4. Recommendations**

##### **4.1. What recommendations are you putting to the institute to improve the student experience regarding WIL?**

Theresa is putting up the recommendations up for motion to be presented to the Council.

Travis and Simran support the motion.

Recommendations:

1. Ensure there is a level of WIL in every course. Examples where no WIL is evident include Bach Accounting, Bach Const Management.

2. Holmesglen to consider whether the term break / holidays could be used as an opportunity to complete WIL hours.

3. Holmesglen to ensure there is an evaluation tool to capture student experience on WIL.

4. Placement officer to support Holmesglen learners to secure placement.

5. Where WIL is project based, further engagement with industry specialists is recommended.

6. Diversify placement / internship opportunities (BHM, BIS courses).

7. Recommendation to provide support resources / workshops to assist students prior to entering WIL.

The council second the motion with 8 votes agreeing and 0 against it.

#### **5. Next meeting & meeting topic.**

12 May 2021 – Supporting Holmesglen Learners