

Synopsis

'WIL you be safe at work?' program outline



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

Enabling student safety and wellbeing in WIL (professional experience)

Work Health and Safety (WHS) is not merely about physical health and safety. WHS needs to encompass psychological and psychosocial health and safety if WHS workplace practices are to address matters such as diversity, equity and inclusion. WIL stakeholders are grappling with these complexities with a particularly vulnerable cohort of workers – students on work placements – due to their inexperience in the workforce.

'WIL you be safe at work?' online WHS training program will educate students in their WHS duties, rights and responsibilities, and include discrimination, harassment and assault, in addition to physical and psychological health risks, as outlined in UOW's Safe and Respectful Communities Action Plan 2018-2020.

In light of and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the training program will consider the emerging opportunities of remotely delivered WIL experiences, and equip students with information to be able to safely work in these arrangements. Finally, the implementation of this module will demonstrate UOW's alignment with a national Institutional Framework for the Quality Assurance of WIL¹ that '*ensures student readiness and preparation for learning in the workplace context*'.

This is an interactive online WHS training module for students going on their first WIL (professional experience) placement. In the narrative, we follow five classmates as they embark on a WIL experience under the guidance of a WIL Placement Coordinator. To cover the breadth of student experiences at UOW, the five students belong to different disciplines and will participate in variety of work environments, providing students with basic WHS training that will prepare them for the world of work. Upon completion, students will download a certificate which can be uploaded into a placement management systems as a mandatory check.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this program, students will be able to:

- 1) Recognise the responsibilities of students, hosts and the university in accordance with legislation;
- 2) Practice the risk assessment process by completing documentation;
- 3) Apply WHS reporting processes for incident notification; and
- 4) Apply WHS procedures to a variety of unsafe situations.

If you have any feedback, please email wil-advisory-committee@uow.edu.au

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¹ Campbell, M., Russell, L., Smith, L., McAllister, L., Tunny, R., Thomson, K. & Barrett, M. (2019) A framework for the institutional quality assurance of work integrated learning.
