Work Integrated Learning: A Student Perspective

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Abstract:
For many students at Curtin University, the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) project provides their first experience of a professional working environment. The University aims to ensure a quality educational experience that prepares the student for professional work after graduation, as well as a safe and positive introduction to the profession.

The diversity of Curtin’s student cohort means that students often encounter difficulties which impact their ability to successfully engage in the WIL program. Issues that students may face while undertaking WIL include a temporary loss of income due to a reduction of work availability, difficulty finding transport to their placement, as well as culture-shock. This is especially important for international students, who often face additional challenges in workplace learning due to language and cultural differences. International students comprised 26% of Curtin’s fieldwork enrolments in 2015. These issues, among others, can have significant effects on a student’s mental wellbeing as well as their ability to effectively complete assessments.

This fun and interactive workshop will explore WIL from a student perspective. The aim is to highlight the numerous issues that students may face whilst involved in WIL and propose some solutions.