



# Work Integrated Learning Version 2.0

A focus on student mentorship and industry collaboration



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Credit: STH

Work Integrated Learning (WIL) is the term used to describe the integration of academia and the work-place, or of theory and practice in student learning. Its purpose is to enhance student learning and provide the opportunity for a number of innovative curriculum developments and changes in response to concerns around graduate readiness, employability and civic responsibility.

As part of WIL, students have the opportunity to engage in experiential learning. The process involves learning through experience, and gaining industry exposure to produce a more employable and market ready graduate. In essence, WIL describes an approach to career-focussed education that includes classroom-based and work-place-based learning for the mutual benefit of the student and the workplace.

Within the School of Tourism and Hospitality, students enrolled for the National Diplomas in Tourism and Hospitality Management are required to complete 400 hours of WIL over the final six months of their studies in order to graduate. This year, students were due to be placed in industry at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic caused the large-scale shut down of tourism and hospitality organisations and the furloughing of thousands of employees.

To enable students to graduate, we had to think quickly and innovatively to develop a new model for WIL. Following engagement with industry partners, we developed a remote-learning mentorship wil programme. This programme paired students with an industry member working in their particular field of interest.

**THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE 2020 STH WIL PROGRAMME HAS UNDERGONE A MAJOR TRANSFORMATION.**