Work Integrated Learning – value to non-professional degrees and their students

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Work Integrated Learning (WIL) has long been recognised as a powerful learning tool within the Australian higher education context, particularly within professional based disciplines. But what of those disciplines not professionally mandated, those not requiring the completion of a practical component before the graduate enters the workplace? Is there a role for WIL within these disciplines and what is the value of WIL to students studying in non-professionally mandated industries? This research considers the experiences of students that have undertaken WIL as a compulsory component of their studies in Tourism at Flinders University. Students undertake WIL despite the fact that the tourism industry does not require students to complete a WIL activity prior to working in the industry. The research examines feedback from Tourism graduates that undertook a WIL topic/s to address the following question: Is WIL recognised by the student as an important component of a student's degree when not required by the tourism profession?

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