Work integrated learning (WIL) is a key part of the distinct educational philosophy of RMIT University; indeed WIL is embedded within RMIT policy, which mandates a minimum level of WIL activities as part of the experiences and assessments of all students in Higher Education and Vocational Education coursework awards. As a global university of technology and design, RMIT has established RIIERP to help fulfill its global and WIL aspirations, providing a global WIL experience of between 6 and 12 months for more than 2,500 students. RIIERP partners with over 200 organisations in 17 different countries in Asia, Europe and North America, that contribute approximately $2.7 million each year to the program. Long-term partnerships of more than 10 years duration have been established with successful global companies such as Audi, BMW, Siemens, Bosch, Volkswagen and Bayer. RIIERP allows early exposure and promotes awareness of students to different cultural settings, and gives students the opportunity to improve their global employability, thus instilling the desired generic attributes for graduates of the future in a global society. The authors draw on the evidence provided by RIIERP, developed more than two decades ago, to engender the development of graduate attributes of a global work-ready citizen.

Keywords: graduate attributes, global work integrated learning, global work-ready citizen, RMIT International Industry Experience and Research Program (RIIERP)