Towards a Collaborative Partner Best Practice Approach to WIL

MAXINE BRADSHAW
TERRI JOINER
Federation University, Gippsland campus, Victoria, Australia

CONTEXT

Common impediments identified in all WIL programs include cost, time and effort (Abeysekera, 2006). Therefore given the resource and time-intensive aspects of WIL programs consideration needs to be given to effective, sustainable program designs. The presentation is given by Naomi Dunn the HR Relationship Manager for ASIC Australian Securities and Investment Commission at Traralgon and academic Maxine Bradshaw Academic Coordinator for the Industry Placement Program and Director of Regional Engagement Faculty of Business, Federation University Australia. This showcases a regional case study between ASIC based at Traralgon, Victoria Australia and the School of Business and Economics, Gippsland Campus now Federation University Australia, building partner capacity for WIL opportunities.

This case study is part of a stakeholder study in order to inform changes to assessment, evaluation and best practices.

METHOD

Multi-modal approach to data collection was used. A structured online survey was used including semi-structured interviews and focus groups involving students, industry partners, educators, program administrators. Open questions were analysed using inductive coding and thematic analysis at individual response level, following Mishler’s (1990) basic principles of qualitative research.

Identified themes were interpreted within the broader theoretical framework of principles and practices in WIL design.

Issue being showcased derived from the industry practitioner’s perspective, such as factors that are critical for success, quality assurance and:

1. Assessment Consideration
   Evidence from this study shows that learning and skill development happens at the work placement and that industry practitioner’s evaluation should be given greater weighting.

2. Practices and building capacity
   Greater collaboration between the academic (educator) supervising the placement, the university and the industry practitioner. Amongst the factors that industry practitioners identify as important to success, include; considerable advance planning within their own organisation, to match students, allocating teams and supervisors, managing expectations, feedback, reflective practices, mentoring.

REFERENCES