Connecting the dots: Building WIL capacity within and across university boundaries

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The best co-op placements are those where industry and universities are seen as equal partners involved in the planning of the overall experience and student's professional development (Martin in Howe and Patrick, 2007). A qualitative study, conducted across a small representative sample of stakeholders (within and across university boundaries) involved in a 12-month placement program, found that regardless of the diversity of work placement settings and the uniqueness and value differentiation of the individuals involved, there was evidence of a breadth of opportunities for learning, professional formation and individual development. The study concluded that through promoting knowledge sharing, collaborative relationships and active engagement within and across a number of levels of university and organisational contexts, capacity can be built at individual, leadership and institutional levels.

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