Background
ACEN aims to foster research and scholarship initiatives in Work Integrated Learning (WIL) by endorsing research and scholarship proposals and identifying and advancing WIL research and scholarship in priority areas.

In 2013 ACEN is offering funding for two research grants to conduct an investigation into an area of Work Integrated Learning that address a theme identified through consultation with ACEN membership as part of the 2012 ACEN National Research Symposium. These themes are:
1. Meeting the expectations of employers/tired workforce and limited placements.
2. Assessing WIL outcomes/WIL and e portfolio (gathering evidence, documentation etc.)
3. Measurement/impact/evidence
4. Widening participation/equity and social inclusion/social transformative effects of WIL
5. Costs associated with WIL
6. Employability as a marketable feature of education.

Scheme Objectives
The grants are intended to:
• build the capacity for members of ACEN to undertake research into aspects of work integrated learning
• promote and supporting scholarship in work integrated learning
• develop effective mechanisms for identifying, developing, disseminating and embedding researched based practice in work integrated learning programs
• leverage opportunities for collaboration in research into the practices of work integrated learning.

Funding and Selection Process
These Research Grants are valued at up to $10,000 each and are expected to be completed within a twelve month period. Funding will be paid at the commencement of the project. Any unspent funds must be returned to ACEN at the end of the project.

At the conclusion of the project successful applicants will be required to complete a statutory declaration detailing how funds have been spent.

The grants are available to professional or academic staff of financial ACEN institutional members – full or limited institution – and to individual members of ACEN. The grants are not available to members of the ACEN National Executive.

Applications must comply with ACEN Project Guidelines (Appendix A) and demonstrate how the project will
• build on existing research in the field
• contribute to further scholarship of WIL
• increase ACEN’s profile as a contributor to this goal.

It is the responsibility of the Project Leader to
• arrange ethics approval
• involve other ACEN members in the process, especially early career researchers, where possible
• meet ACEN Executive progress and reporting deadlines
• present a progress seminar at an ACEN event
• and leverage dissemination opportunities to share good practice including a refereed publication acknowledging the contribution of ACEN to the project.

Examples of allowable budget expenses include personnel (clerical support, student assistance, etc.), postage, printing, photocopying, travel for conference presentation, telephone and fax costs, and office supplies. Items must be directly related to achieving the research project.

Examples of non-allowable budget expenses include salary for the researcher, indirect institutional expenses, institutional overhead, permanent equipment and capital purchases.
Areas that must be addressed in the application:
1. Title of Project
2. Brief overview (approx 50 words)
3. Names of people and institutions involved in the project
4. How the project is consistent with vision, mission and aims of ACEN
5. The theme addressed by the project from those themes identified by ACEN membership as part of the 2012 ACEN National Research Symposium
6. Aims of the project
7. Expected Outcomes
8. Impact of the project
9. Dissemination plan
10. How the project will build on existing research and scholarship in work integrated learning
11. Project budget

The application must be provided as a Word document and not exceed five pages.

A letter of endorsement must accompany the application from the applicants line manager that indicates support for the project and a willingness to provide time for the project to be undertaken.

The assessment of project proposals will be against the criteria set for the project, the quality of the design; value for money; the importance of the outcomes proposed in the context of the ACEN's mission, objectives and responsibilities; and the capacity of the project team to deliver the outcomes proposed.

Closing date
Applications must be forward to admin@acen.edu.au by 5p.m. AEST on Friday June 28th, 2013

Enquiries
admin@acen.edu.au

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Appendix A

ACEN Project Guidelines

Guidelines for ACEN-hosted or originated projects
ACEN will consider hosting projects that meet the following criteria:
• Consistent with the Vision, Mission and objectives of ACEN
• Respond to an identified need in relation to WIL Outcomes, rationale and impact are clearly articulated
• Apply an ethical approach in relation to the scholarship of WIL
• Include strategies for the dissemination and embedding of the project outcomes
• Utilise and advance existing national and international knowledge and practices regarding Work Integrated Learning
• Include collaboration and inclusiveness in the project design and project teams and consider stakeholder perspectives as appropriate
• Include the capacity to mentor early career researchers where appropriate
• Project team members have the capacity to undertake the project
• ACEN institutional members are involved as appropriate
• Clearly defined reporting mechanisms to the ACEN national executive and membership

Note:
The use of 'collaborative' in ACEN’s name was intentional both in terms of a word that could define the broad nature of the relationships involved in WIL, and also with the intention of the network being highly collaborative and responsive to the need for a national voice. In relation to ACEN supported/hosted or originated projects, ACEN supports the principle of maximising collaboration and inclusiveness in all projects.

ACEN reserves the right to reassess the endorsement of a project at any time.