Transnational WIL: supporting employability through innovative alternatives to internships

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Legal barriers for international students

- **Offshore campuses in Singapore, Malaysia, UAE**

- **Singapore** – Foreign students on a Student Pass can work up to 16 hours a week if their institution is on the list of approved institutions. However, none of the Australian universities with transnational campuses is currently on either list.

- **Malaysia** – Problematic, work restrictions unviable for WIL internships.

- **United Arab Emirates**: Student visa holders cannot hold paid jobs, can do unpaid internships with university permission.
International student perspective

- Do they want to do an internship?
  - Cultural adjustment
  - English language adjustment
  - Concerns about study
  - Scaffolded structure may be more suitable (Naylor et al 2010)

- What’s in it for me?
  - Pyvis & Chapman 2007 – transformational / positional motivation differences between local and international students (Malaysia)
  - Volunteer/service learning may be more acceptable to international students
WIL alternatives

- Limited examples follow
- These examples appear challenging to sustain

Technology-enabled
- Global challenge virtual competitions (Wolf & Archer 2013)
- E-WIL –Victoria University recycle textbook project (Fong&Sims 2010)
- Global WIL Project, RMIT
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- [Video Link](https://youtu.be/_35cvWSU10o)
- 2d year Public relations students from Melbourne (40)
  - USA, Ireland
- Collaborative development tourism campaign for Irish town
- 10 went to Ireland to present to client
- Challenges: time, lack of face-to-face, IT
- Benefits: work across time/places; team; develop processes; different cultures
Dual Hub simulation pilot project RMIT

- Simulation activities to prepare students for actual work projects in Vietnam
- Team based learning in a cross-cultural context with preparatory and reflective activities
- WIL activities designed for the challenges of a hospital workplace in a developing country
- 8 major projects delivered to Da Nang Hospital Vietnam
WIL dual hub social enterprise projects

- 20 students from Melbourne/ Hanoi conducted a joint study for a NGO project, Morningstar Centre café employing young people with a disability) and presented a business plan to the NGO Board.

- 25 students from RMIT's Melbourne and Saigon South campuses worked on creating a marketing plan for the Long Hoa Orphanage in Ho Chi Minh City
Authentic projects and industry input

- JCU Singapore – Art Edge capstone Bachelor of Arts degree experiential event planning
- JCU Singapore – Bachelor of Business and Environmental Science degree; guest lecturers and field trips to factories, business centres; one subject delivered in Phuket TH investigating coastal ecosystems
- Curtin Sarawak – Accounting club “business challenge” for high schools; event planning but club – not WIL
- Curtin Sarawak – PR industry project (Wolf 2009)
- Curtin Sarawak courses “designed with direct input from industry, so our students graduate with the skills and knowledge they need in the ever-changing global marketplace.”
 Alternatives; potential approaches

- Holiday programme including career preparation, activity workshops, talks, best practice approaches, Networking with local experts (Subramamian & Freudenberg 2007)
- Venture Matrix – student-driven cross-faculty industry projects (Ehiyazaryan & Barraclough 2009)
- Consulternships: University of Colorado, Denver (Business, IT, Accounting) – students and faculty together (Neuman & Banghart 2001)
  - Nanyang Polytechnic, Singapore – Dedicated Client Project Centre staff bid on projects conducted with teams of lecturers and students in
- Research internships relevant to internationalisation strategy/location
  - JCU Singapore – research on tropical issues
  - Malaysia – ecotourism businesses
Conclusion

- Scarce research evidence of cohesive approaches between
  - Onshore/offshore campuses
  - Offshore campuses and local industry
  - Cross-discipline approaches
- Potential examples
- Technology potential but development is resource-intensive
- Future collaborative research to put the puzzle together

Source: EPA (2016)
References

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)) (2016) https://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/kids/scientists/pieces.html
- Virtual Global WIL https://emedia.rmit.edu.au/learningpatterns/content/virtual-global-wil