



# Integration

## Definition

Integrative learning brings together theory and practice in the workplace or professional context. The “theory-practice nexus” is simply the site in which theoretical ideas or disciplinary techniques and skills which were learnt in class, are developed and applied in the real world.

## Purpose

The purpose of integration is to make the WIL experience relevant to the theory learned in university with the practical application in a workplace context and vice versa. Clear alignment of WIL activities to the achievement of learning outcomes is the cornerstone of good WIL practice that underpins the development of capabilities related to employment-readiness.

## Good practice

Well-established educational practice within a work context focuses on both workplace performance and learning that integrates theory and practice. Integration goes beyond ‘learn theory at university’ and then ‘practice in the workplace’. Although valid, the mere experience of work is insufficient as a learning outcome. WIL experiences should be designed to provide opportunities for students to use and reflect on the applicability of theory and knowledge in the workplace.

## Role of stakeholders

### ***Universities WIL practitioners should:***

- consult and co-design the WIL activity with the industry or community partner so that opportunities are provided for students to display integration and reflect on the theory-work nexus.
- Consult with students or alumni to advise on designing learning goals that are relevant to them in terms of the integration that they want to achieve and to help in the design of opportunities for integrative learning in context.
- explicitly communicate to students and industry/community partners the intention of integrated learning

knowledge to workplace practices.

***Students should:***

- be prepared from the outset to identify, develop and apply their knowledge and skills gained in their studies to the WIL activity.
- recognise and evaluate the applicability and value of theoretical ideas in work contexts.