

Interdisciplinary Project-Based Work-Integrated Learning:

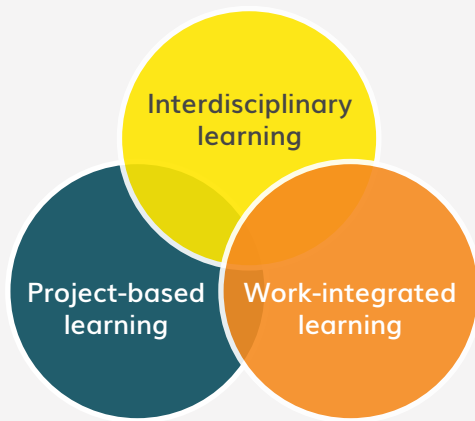
Student-centred learning
to enhance employability

Interested in enhancing your students'
employability through industry-driven projects?

Find out about how interdisciplinary student projects, developed in collaboration with industry, enhance key employability capabilities such as critical thinking, creativity, flexibility, teamwork and project management and strengthen university and industry partnerships.

Why focus on interdisciplinary project-based learning within the context of work-integrated learning?

Interdisciplinary project-based learning closely aligns with the contemporary world of work where complex problems demand interdisciplinary solutions and employers focus on the interdisciplinary collaboration skills of graduates (World Economic Forum, 2018). To ensure the authenticity of such learning, collaboration with industry is a critical factor. This university-industry collaboration provides the ideal vehicle for embedding work-integrated learning in higher education curriculum.



Interdisciplinary project-based work-integrated learning is defined as: a systematic educational approach that engages students from two or more disciplines in the integration of information, techniques, concepts and/or theories from their different disciplines as they work collaboratively to solve complex, authentic questions or problems generated in collaboration with industry.

Key characteristics of interdisciplinary project-based work-integrated learning

- Students from two or more disciplines (or professions)
- Significant interactivity between students from different disciplines to ensure they have opportunities to learn about and integrate the different perspectives of their disciplines/professions
- Students engage in authentic and meaningful work-related projects over an extended period of time
- Students manage their own projects in interdisciplinary teams (student-led)
- Reflectivity plays a central role during the research stage and the real-world application of knowledge
- The final evaluation is focused on the final outcome/output of the project
- Must involve three stakeholders; the student, the university, and industry.

This project was funded by the Australian Technology Network (ATN) and developed by Curtin University, the University of South Australia, RMIT, and the University of Technology Sydney.



Australian good practice guide:
Use this guide to develop your own interdisciplinary project-based work-integrated learning experiences for higher education students.



Pilot project exemplars:
Review the example projects conducted at four Australian universities covering an array of disciplines and delivery modes.

For further information visit the project website www.multisectorprojects.com