

WXL RESEARCH FEATURE

WHAT ASPECTS AND PROGRAMMING CAN BE RE-EVALUATED TO ENSURE A CULTURALLY RELEVANT WORK-INTEGRATED LEARNING (WIL) EXPERIENCE FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS?

- Include Indigenous content in the preparation materials/courses prior to the WIL experience that supports Indigenous knowledge development, and encourages knowledge sharing in the spirit of reciprocal learning
- Provide meaningful opportunities for application of knowledge and the development of skills and attributes, including opportunities to engage with the land, Elders, and Indigenous communities to strengthen the student's identity development, self-determination, and connection to Indigenous networks
- WIL assessments should be culturally safe, relevant to the experience, and conducted by someone who has a respectful relationship with the student and an understanding of the experience
- Implement Indigenous cultural safety training for WIL practitioners and staff, including non-Indigenous employers and students to encourage reflection on beliefs and practices to work towards decolonization
- Include support structures including mentorship programs and connection with Elders and peers, and consider additional program financial supports
- Emphasize mutually respectful relationships that are based on understanding of Indigenous cultural practices and colonial history
- WIL experiences must re-enforce, not undermine, Indigenous identity
- Foster connection through welcoming events and encourage Indigenous community engagement initiatives