



The Vision Science Work Integrated learning (WIL) Program offers students a chance to apply academic knowledge in real-world settings, connecting theory with practice. It's designed for those keen on exploring vision, eye health, and cutting-edge technologies. Participants gain hands-on experience with external organisations in Vision Science or Ophthalmic fields outside UNSW.

Key Benefits:

- **Practical Experience:** Gain hands-on industry exposure before graduation, applying theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios.
- **Skill Development:** Enhance problem-solving, communication, and teamwork skills essential for future career success.
- **Industry Collaboration:** Collaborate with leading companies and professionals in ophthalmic industry, gaining insights into industry standards and emerging technologies.
- **Academic Credit:** Earn credit towards your degree while gaining valuable practical experience.
- **Personal Growth:** Develop confidence, resilience, and a sense of accomplishment as you tackle meaningful projects and contribute to ophthalmic field.
- **Competitive Advantage:** Stand out to employers with demonstrated practical experience, industry connections, and readiness for the workforce.

How does it work?

The credits earned through WIL courses will count towards General Education for Program 3181 Bachelor of Vision Science. The placement duration may vary depending on the type of course selected. Here are the options:

- **Option 1 One term part-time enrolment**
 - Student must enrol into CDEV course worth 6UoC
 - Preferred enrolment for a third year Vision Science student is Term 3 or Summer Term
 - Placement duration: Typically, between 105 hours (equivalent of 15 full time days) and 168 hours (24 full time days) over the 10-week term
- **Option 2 One term full-time enrolment**
 - Student must enrol into CDEV course worth 12UoC
 - Preferred enrolment for a third year Vision Science student is CDEV3001
 - Placement duration: Typically, between 210 hours and 336 hours (48 full time days) over the 10-week term
- **Option 3 Two term part-time enrolment**
 - Student must enrol into CDEV course worth 12UoC
 - Preferred enrolment for a third year Vision Science student is CDEV3012
 - Placement duration: Typically, between 210 hours and 336 hours (48 full time days over 2 terms)

Eligibility:

- Students enrolled in:
 - the third year of Bachelor of Vision Science (Program 3181) or Bachelor of Vision Science/Master of Clinical Optometry (Program 3182).
- A Weighted Average Mark of 60 and above at the time of application
- Good academic standing
- Performance in interviews

Application process

Expressions of interest (EOI) will be sought from students in June or July each year for placements in Term 3, Summer Term (January to February), or Term 1 for full-term enrolment. The EOI may involve a *personal statement, uploading the latest academic statement and an interview*. The EOI form will be made available on school's website from July each year. The EOIs will be assessed by a school selection committee considering academic performance and the interview outcomes. Successful applicants will receive email notifications for enrolment into Career Development courses offered by PVCSS.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If I've already completed 12 UoC of GenEd, am I still eligible for the WIL program?

A: Yes, you remain eligible to apply for the WIL program. However, please note that this may result in additional expenses, potentially increasing your student loan via HECS-HELP (for domestic students).

Q: Can I self-source an industry partner I wish to work with?

A: Students seeking placements with specific organisations may approach them independently. Once secured, they must contact the WIL program coordinator at the school, who will assist in completing the paperwork before the placement commences. Placements must pertain to Vision Science or Ophthalmic fields. Each application will undergo assessment by the school or university to ensure relevance to the program.

Q: Are the placements typically located in NSW or Sydney?

A: While most placements are within NSW or Sydney, some may involve interstate travel.

Q: Will I be paid by the industry partner during my placement?

A: The main objective of the WIL placement is to offer students valuable industry experience before they graduate. Therefore, students are not remunerated for their participation.

Q: What will I be doing during WIL placement?

A: Depending on your workplace and agreement with your placement supervisor, tasks may vary. They could include shadowing staff, contributing to ongoing projects, being assigned your own project to complete during your placement, participating in research, laboratory work, or field-based activities. Throughout this experience, you will develop discipline-specific and transferable skills under the guidance of your work placement supervisor and the UNSW WIL coordinator.

Q: Are there any scholarships or funding options to assist with the WIL placement?

A: Regrettably, there is currently no support provided by the school or university. Students are responsible for financing their own placements.

Q: Is it possible to undertake my WIL placement during the Summer Term instead of Term 3?

A: This option is contingent upon the project's requirements and the industry partner's availability during the summer period.

Q: What occurs upon the approval of my application?

A: The Course Development program coordinator will facilitate your enrolment in the relevant WIL course. Following this, you will be introduced to an industry partner who has agreed to collaborate for the specified duration, either during Term 3 or the Summer Term.

Q: If I enrol in a 6UoC WIL course, must I dedicate a continuous 2-week block to work?

A: Whether you work continuously for 2 weeks or spread your commitment over Term 3 depends on the industry partner and project requirements.

Q: Intellectual Property (IP) laws govern content developed by certain organisations. Who retains ownership of the IP created during my WIL placement?

A: The partnering organisation allows students to use its intellectual property (IP) for educational purposes related to WIL activities at no cost. If the student is employed by the organisation, any IP student creates belongs to the organisation under their employment contract. If not employed by the organisation, the student retains ownership of their created IP. The organisation may request the student to assign their IP to the organisation, and UNSW will communicate this request to the student.

Students participating in a work placement may be required to sign an IP and Confidentiality Deed Poll (IP/Confidentiality Deed Poll) prior to commencing the placement. If a student is required to sign a Deed Poll, this should be signed **before the commencement of the WIL activity**.

Please note, if you are requested to sign an (IP/Confidentiality Deed Poll) and you do not do so, you will not be able to proceed with the WIL Placement with that organisation. You will need to find a different organisation to carry out your placement or internship.

If you as a student are not familiar with an IP/Confidentiality Deed Poll, or want further information on how it impacts you, we recommend that you seek independent legal advice.

Arc Legal provides a free legal advice service for students: <https://www.arc.unsw.edu.au/help/legal-information> or you can seek your own legal advice elsewhere.