Work Integrated Learning

at UNSW School of Art & Design

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Work Integrated Learning at UNSW School of Art & Design

Work Integrated Learning (WIL) provides opportunities for students to undertake learning experiences in professional settings. Every student at the UNSW School of Art & Design is offered the opportunity to participate as part of their program of study.

WIL provides an invaluable opportunity for students at advanced stages of their study to continue to build professional skills and apply their academic knowledge to real-world challenges. Completing practical work experience under the guidance of practicing professionals assist students in making informed choices about future career pathways.

This program is mutually beneficial for host organisations, ranging from from independent practitioners, sole traders and small startups to large organisations. WIL Hosts gain fresh perspectives and innovative solutions from emerging talent, as well as a competitive advantage for recruiting the best graduate talent.

About us

The School of Art & Design is part of the Faculty of Arts, Design & Architecture at UNSW. We're one of Australia's largest, most dynamic and diverse creative art and design schools. We offer more disciplines and interdisciplinary study opportunities than any other school in Australia.

Using the latest teaching methods, underpinned by leading-edge technology and an innovative learning environment, we hope to inspire a new generation of creative practitioners and thinkers. Our industry-relevant programs are based in studio practice, while our pioneering research ranges from immersive interactive environments, empowering Indigenous knowledges, to interrogating diverse global issues.

Our graduates secure careers in the cultural and creative industries across Australia and internationally, making contributions to some of the most influential and prestigious organisations shaping the world today. Our distinguished alumni include critically acclaimed artists, celebrated designers, and leaders of ground-breaking enterprises and renowned cultural institutions around the globe.

1st in Australia for research excellence and impact*
QS World University Ranking 2024

Top 20 in the world
2025 QS World University Rankings*

Highest median graduate salaries of Go8 universies.
QILT Graduate Outcomes Survey (medium-term), 2022

Most employable university
Australian Financial Review (AFR) Top 100 Future Leaders Awards for six consecutive years (2020-2025)

Our students

Undergraduate **Work Integrated Learning (WIL)** is offered to students nearing the completion of programs including:

› Bachelor of Design in Integrated Design

› Bachelor of Fine Arts in Animation and Moving Image

› Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Theory

› Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Arts

Postgraduate **Work Integrated Learning (WIL)** is offered to students in coursework programs including:

› Master of Animation and Visual Effects

› Master of Curating and Cultural Leadership

› Master of Design

› Master of Simulation and Immersive Technologies

Students undertake a range of disciplinary studies throughout their program, while also engaging with interdisciplinary perspectives and practices.

Design	Fine Arts/ Visual Arts	Animation and Visual Effects	Curating	Art Theory
› 3D Visualisation	› Drawing	› Animation	› Curatorial Practice and Theory	› Art History
› Experience Design (Spatial)	› Painting	› Visual Effects	› Cultural Leadership	› Local and Global Art
› Fashion Design	› Photography	› Moving Image	› Museum Studies	› Art and Institutions
› Graphic Design	› Printmaking	› Sound	› Cultural Policy	› Art and Embodiment
› Interaction (UX) Design	› Sculpture	› Game Art	› Art Writing	› Art and Technology
› Object Design	› Moving Image	› 3D Visualisation	› Audience Engagement	
› Textiles				

What is involved

WIL placements require 105 hours of professional engagement, performed part-time over ten weeks. Generally, this is aligned with UNSW's term dates, however we can accommodate requests for timing to align with a specific project.

Indicative term dates (2026):

› Term 1: 16 February – 24 April

› Term 2: 1 June – 7 August

› Term 3: 14 September – 20 November

Deadlines:

Host placement description submission: Advertised 4 – 6 weeks prior to the term

Student applications: Aligned with term-specific timelines

Roles and responsibilities

| Student	Host	UNSW Staff
› Complete 105 hours	› Provide orientation, supervision, mentorship and resources	› Approve WIL agreements
› Submit placement journal and critical reflection	› Ensure safe workplace	› Monitor progress and resolve issues
› Adhere to WHS, codes of conduct and confidentiality	› Understand students will not conduct the level of work expected of a full-time employee	› Support academic outcomes

WIL Studio

Launched in 2025, our new WIL Studio provides a dedicated professional workspace on the UNSW Paddington campus. This collaborative working space is available for placements with organisations that don't have the infrastructure to offer workspace on site.

The WIL Studio simulates a work environment, with bookable desks, collaborative spaces and industry-relevant resources required to set students up for success. It is accessible to students and hosts during the placement dates for project work and meetings.

If your organisation is interested in hosting a WIL placement but doesn't have the infrastructure, the WIL Studio provides the opportunity to work with and mentor our students.

To enquire, contact **ada-wil@unsw.edu.au**
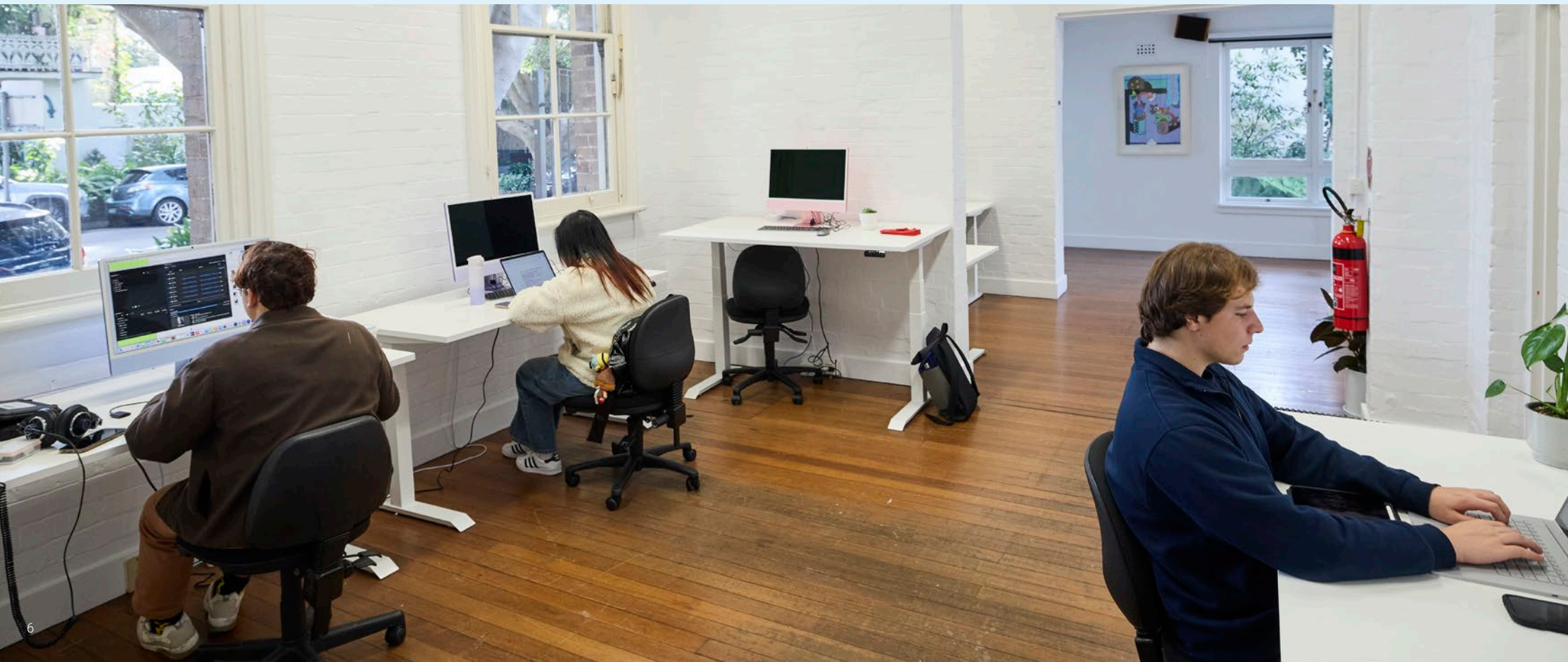
If you're an organisation, institution or professional working in a field related to UNSW School of Art & Design's offerings in Fine Arts, Design, Curating and Cultural Leadership, and/or Animation and Visual Effects, contact **ada-wil@unsw.edu.au** to start the process.

Interested in being a WIL Host?

Application Process

1. **Host and WIL Team meet-up:** We encourage a meet-up (virtual) before we enter into the agreement.

2. **Submission:** Complete an Opportunity Offer Form by term deadlines.

3. **Student Matching:** Opportunities will advertised via our InPlace system. The host will interview students.

4. **WIL Agreement:** Signed by host, student, and UNSW. In some cases, the Company Deed Poll will be required.

5. **Enrolment:** Successful students will be enrolled in the course with tuition.

Interested in being a WIL Host?

Contact **ada-wil@unsw.edu.au** to get started.