



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.

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 July for placements in Term 3. 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. The typical duration of a WIL placement is between 105 hours (equivalent to 15 full time days) and 168 hours (24 days) over the 10 week term. The duration of the placement is typically determined by the industry partner, considering the scope of the WIL project.

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: 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.

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.