

# Enhancing work-integrated learning (WIL) at the University of Ottawa

## Enrichir l'apprentissage intégré au travail à l'Université d'Ottawa

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## Outline / Plan

- Definition of work-integrated learning (WIL) /
- Définition de l'apprentissage intégré au travail (AIT)
  
- WIL opportunities at the University of Ottawa /
- Les occasions dans le domaine a l'Université d'Ottawa

## Definition of work-integrated learning / Définition de l'apprentissage intégré au travail

*Work-integrated learning is a pedagogical practice whereby students come to learn from the integration of experiences in educational and workplace settings (Billett, 2009).*

## Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) typology

Sattler proposed a WIL typology relevant to the post-secondary sector in Ontario that classifies WIL into three, at times overlapping, categories (Sattler 2011:29) :

- 1) **systematic training** in which the workplace is considered the central focus of learning (ie apprenticeship);
- 2) **structured work experience** (ie co-op, internship, field research);
- 3) institutional partnerships to **create initiatives to achieve community goals** (ie service learning).

- Increasing trend towards Post-secondary Institutions (PSI) integrating experiential and/or work-integrated learning within programs in all Faculties .
- Challenge to integrate all students into diverse work and community settings without adequate training, preparation and tools for reflection.

# Local snapshot of the National Capital Region

- Population of the National Capital Region (Ottawa, Ontario and Gatineau, Quebec) : **1.3 Million** (Stats Can 2016). Canadian population: 33 million (Stats Can, 2016)
- Percentage of population in National Capital Region who speak both official languages (English and French) = **44% (2011)**
- University of Ottawa – large, bilingual, research university; 41,000+ students; Nine (9) Faculties : Health Sciences; Arts; Social Sciences; Law (Civil & Common Law), Management, Education, Science, Engineering, Medicine.

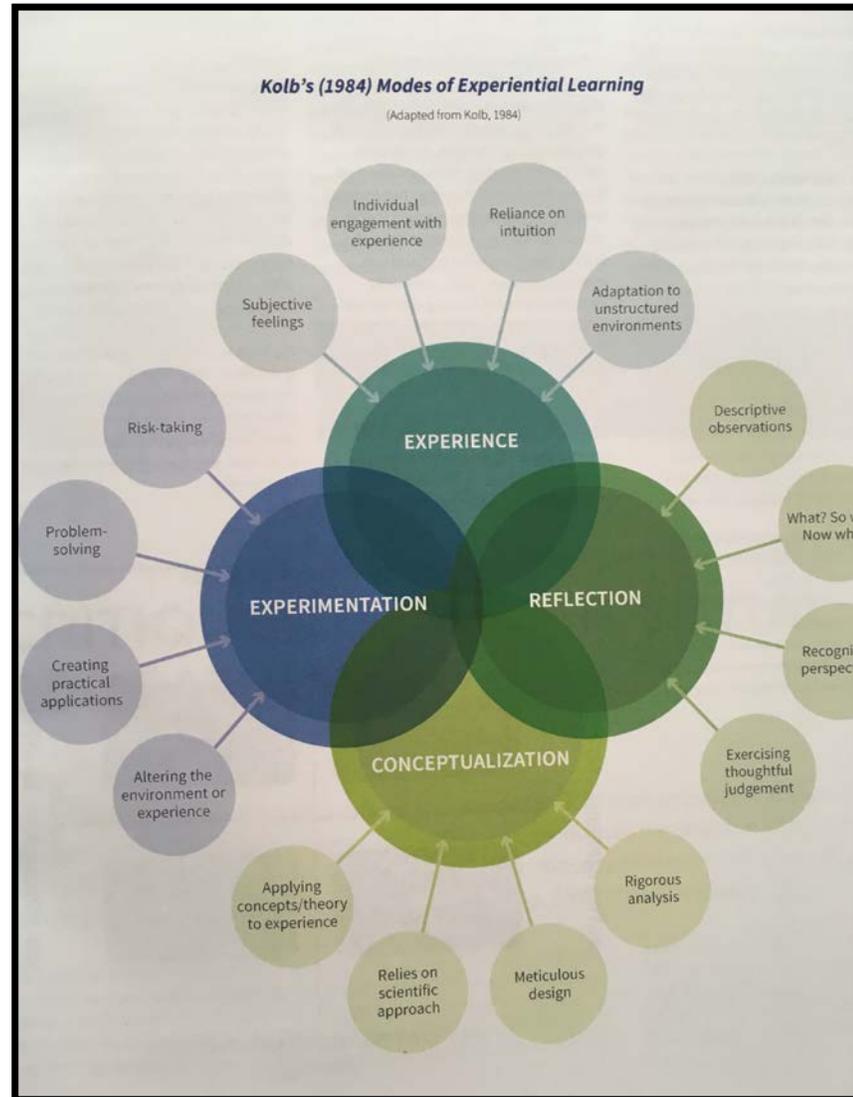


## WIL at uOttawa

- Structured work experience (ie co-op, internship, field research);
- Institutional partnerships to create initiatives to achieve community/industry goals (ie community service learning)

# David A. Kolb's (1984) Modes of Experiential Learning

Diagram source : Stirling *et al* (2016)



## Diverse opportunities for experiential and work-integrated learning at uOttawa

A) Community Service Learning (CSL) through the Michaëlle Jean Centre for Global and Community Engagement <http://servingothers.uottawa.ca/>

B) Cooperative Education Programs (CO-OP) at uOttawa

<https://coop.uottawa.ca/en/future-students>

C) Range of experiential learning offered within each Faculty. For example:

- Internships
- Practicum
- Clinical Placements
- Hackathons; Enactus
- Field Research; Community-based and/or Research

## Build on literature, and good practices co-developed with:

- Communities
- Industry
- Governments
- Post secondary institutions



<https://carleton.ca/communityfirst>

CFICE: Projet canadien et international : un réseau de chercheurs et d'organismes communautaires impliqués dans l'engagement communautaire-campus

*Q: How can community campus partnerships be designed and implemented to maximize the value created for non-profit, community-based organizations?*



## Phase I: Five Thematic Hubs

- Knowledge Mobilization
- Poverty Reduction
- Violence Against Women
- Community Environmental Sustainability
- Community Food Security, co-led by Food Secure Canada

## Phase II: Strategic Action Areas

- Aligning institutions for community impact
- Tools for community campus partnerships
- Student pathways for community impact
- [Community-campus brokering](#)

# Projet provincial : développer des lignes directrices de pratique sur l'apprentissage intégré au travail



**Identify and Evaluate Good Practices**

**Mobilize and Share Knowledge and Resources**

**Strengthen Relationships**

## Reflection and future direction

- Ongoing reflection on *Pathways; Transferable Skills and Competencies; and Resiliency* in WIL.
- Diversity, equity and inclusion
- Institutional support

Institutional support  
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- Collaborate on developing an inventory of work-integrated learning (WIL) practices at uOttawa;
- Research and develop support tools for the uOttawa community and partners to enhance WIL experiences;
- Create synergies for research, discussion, reflection and exchange. Foster a community of practice on WIL.

## References

Billett, S. (2009). Realising the educational worth of integrating work experiences in higher education. *Studies in Higher Education*, 34(7), 827- 843.

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