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
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/](http://servingothers.uottawa.ca/)

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

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


