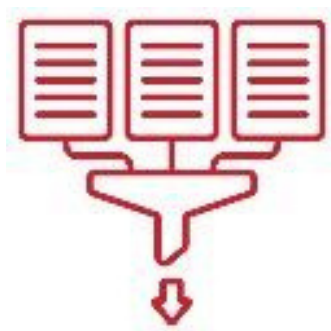


Title	Developing a community of practice for work-integrated learning in UCC
Authors	McCarthy, Ruth;Kerr, Clodagh;Waterman, Aileen
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Case Study Synopsis

Work-Integrated Learning: Introduced to UCC in 2020 following on from the Thematic review of placements by the Quality Enhancement Unit.

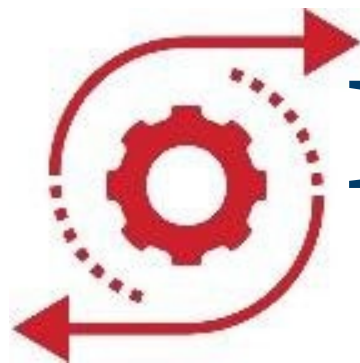
Background: Communities of practice (CoP) refers to groups of people who share a concern or a passion for a topic, a craft, and/or a profession (Wenger [1998](#), [2006](#)). A community of practice acts as a “living curriculum” that engages participants in a process of “collective learning” (Wenger [2006](#)).

Aim: To nurture and cultivate an institution-wide approach to work-integrated learning (WIL) in UCC by empowering a Community of Practice. Currently in developmental stage, driven by a cross-institutional steering committee.

Method: Design a framework for WIL CoP to communicate with all staff involved in WIL university-wide. Inform staff involved in WIL activities on updates to WIL developments locally, nationally and international. Provision of digital staff resources via bespoke WIL SharePoint. Inaugural WIL CoP showcase May 2026.

- Results:**
- University-wide WIL Discovery Survey & Results (Jan 2026)
 - Guest Speaker on National WIL PhD programme.
 - Digital Resource HUB for staff.

Key Words: Work-Integrated Learning, Communities of Practice, Belonging, institutional-wide sharing of good practice



Enabling Belonging

Communities of practice in universities inspire belonging amongst staff though collaboration allowing staff, share experiences, reflect on practice, share challenges and solve problems. The WIL CoP in UCC provides a safe environment for staff to expose themselves to diverse pedagogical practices in WIL across the university and an opportunity for colleagues to recognise and develop their work.

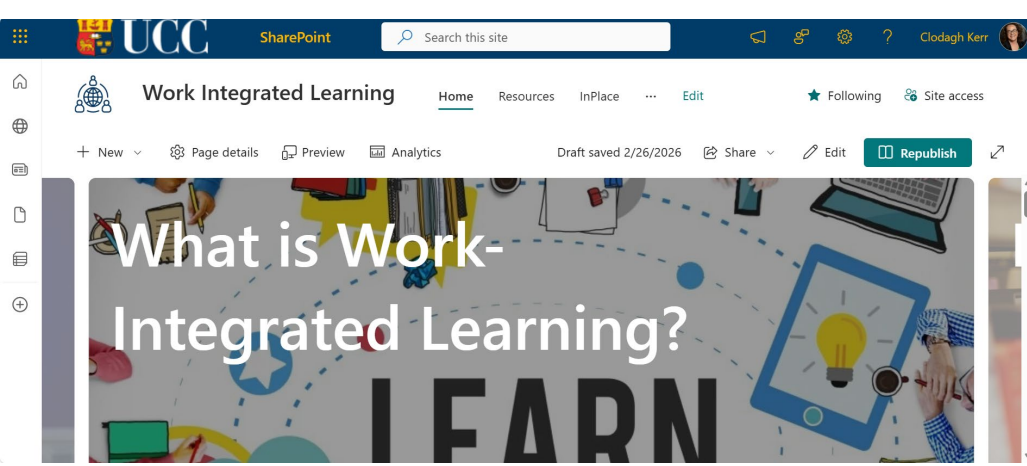


Video Links | Graphics

Join our WIL Community of Practice



[Work Integrated Learning - Home](#)



Areas of Alignment

- X Research & Innovation
- X Student Success
- Global Engagement
- X Our Staff, Our Culture
- Our Place, Our Footprint



Key Impacts

- Dedicated University-wide WIL led enables connection across good practices in the university.
- Discovery of breadth and depth of WIL in UCC.
- International WIL expert presented masterclasses and clinics to UCC staff.



Additional Information

[Communities of Practice in Higher Education](#)

