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Authors	McCarthy, Ruth;Kerr, Clodagh;Waterman, Aileen
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UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Developing a Community of Practice for Work-Integrated Learning in UCC

Clodagh Kerr
Aileen Waterman
Ruth Mc Carthy

Career Services

School of Pharmacy

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh
University College Cork, Ireland

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

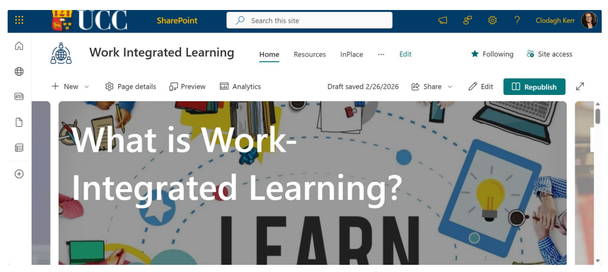
Enabling Belonging

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

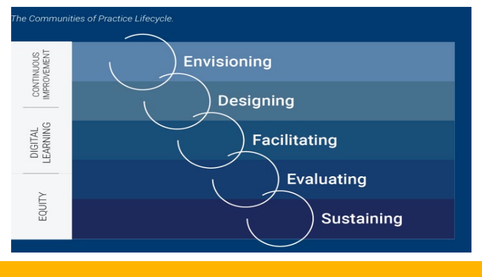
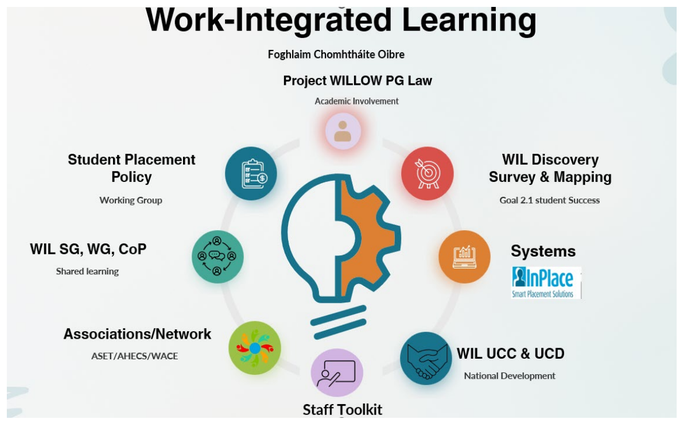


Areas of Alignment

- 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