

Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education May Spotlight

Work-Integrated Learning

“Work-integrated learning is a benefit to the student and the employer. Real-world work experiences that support both academic outcomes and boost employment prospects is a win for everyone.”

- Dr. Sonia Ben Jaafar, Chief Executive Officer, Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education



What is work-integrated learning?

Work-integrated learning (WIL) is a program that provides students with the opportunity to apply their academic learning to a relevant professional work experience. WIL programs make industry connections and establish communities of stakeholders that are essential in producing work-ready graduates. ([CEWIL Canada](#)) Some examples of WIL programs include internships, cooperative education (co-op), service learning, and apprenticeships.

Benefits of WIL

Studies confirm that WIL programs are essential in a student's development.

- Co-op programs improve self-esteem and motivation
- Internship programs increase job offers by 16%
- Service learning positively influences student learning outcomes

WIL programs also benefit other stakeholders

What is the Foundation's role?

WIL only works when stakeholders from different sectors collaborate to create effective programs that directly connects to labor market and improves the employability of graduates ([British Council](#)). The Foundation connects with international and local partners to:



Facilitate WIL opportunities and ensure that youth are career ready



Create awareness of the value of WIL for corporations and universities

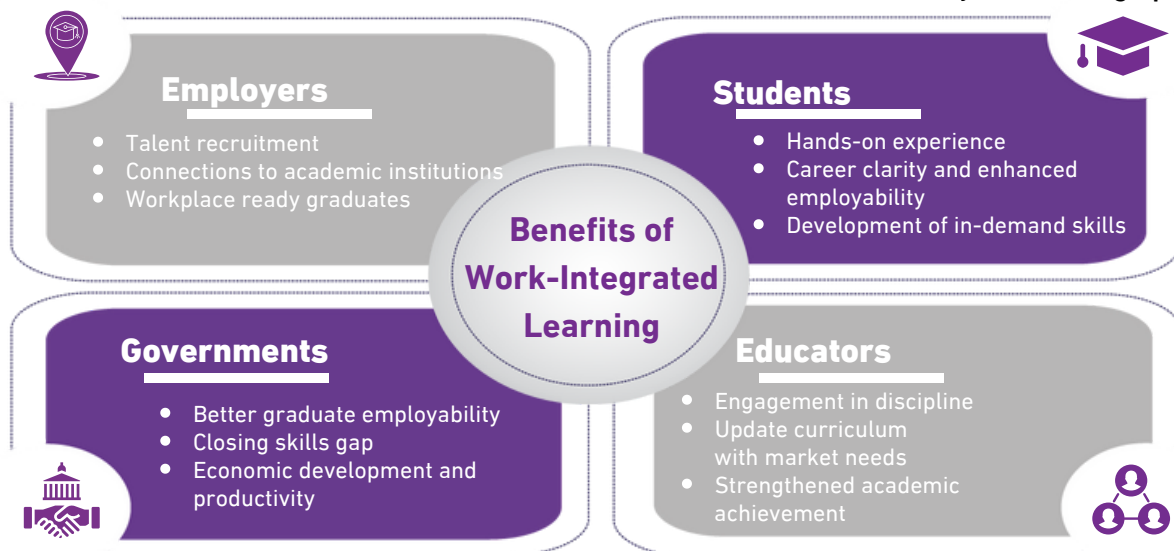


Facilitate mentorship, cooperative education, and internships.

Why is WIL important?

In line with the UAE's National Strategy for Higher Education 2030, WIL:

- Enhances youth's employability
- Provides industry with access to high-quality student talent pipelines
- Builds a talent ecosystem through partnerships



Adapted from: [University of Waterloo](#)

“Work-integrated learning has made such a difference to students and industry actors, but only because government, industry, and academia decided to work together for the benefit of all.”

- Judene Pretti, Ph.D., Director, Business Services, Co-operative and Experiential Education, University of Waterloo

