



Work-Integrated Learning
Australia

Employability through education

Research Grants 2026 Information Session

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Chair, Research and Impact Committee, WIL Australia

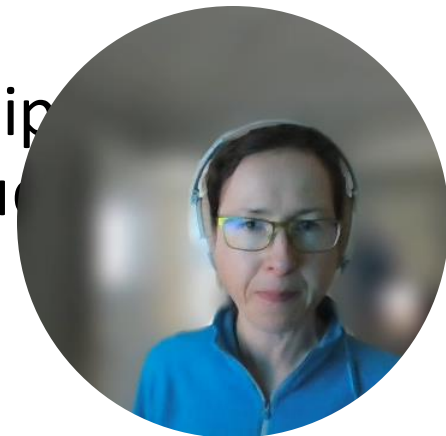


Who are we?

Work-Integrated Learning Australia (WIL Australia) is the national professional association for work-integrated learning (WIL) and collaborative education.

We are a team of dedicated people who create impact in WIL through:

- Facilitating valuable networking, professional learning and scholarship opportunities and events
- Promoting quality, equity and inclusion of access and participation
- Advocating for collaboration and partnerships between education community, industry and governments.

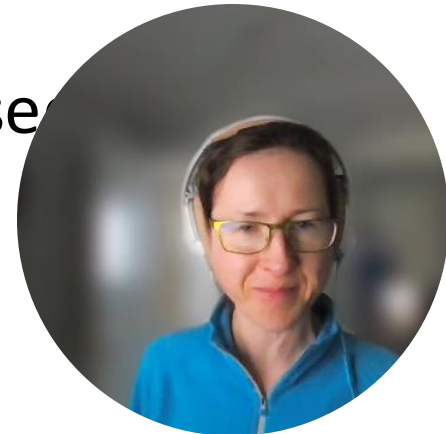


What is WIL?

“educational approach that enables students to experience relevant and authentic work-based learning through engagement with industry and/or community partners as part of assessed university coursework”.
(Cook, 2021, p. 213)

3 key actors are involved in WIL within curricula: students, educators and industry/community.

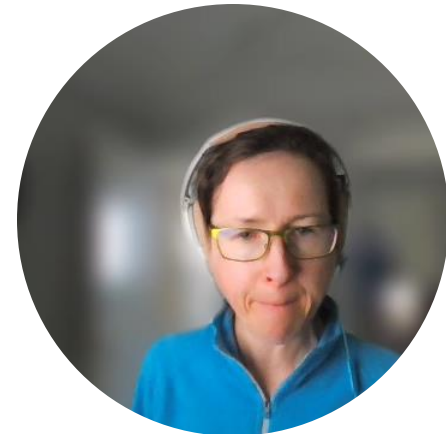
Many forms, e.g., virtual, global, placement-based, project-based, simulated, etc.



Research grants 2026

- Open to academic and professional staff of institutions that have Full Institutional Membership.
- Four grants:
 - \$10,000 grants x 2
 - \$5,000 grants for Emergent and/or Early Career Researchers x2

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Objectives

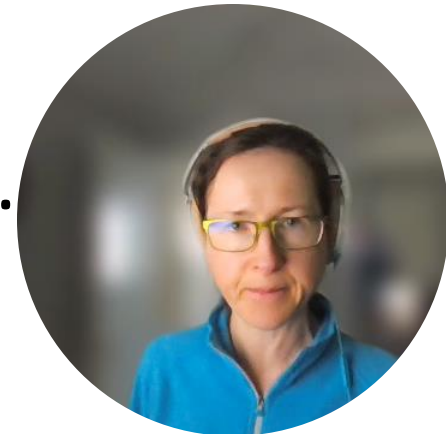
- build the capacity of members, including ECRs and HDRs, to undertake research into WIL.
- promote and support scholarship in WIL.
- develop effective mechanisms for identifying, developing, disseminating and embedding research-based practice in WIL programs.
- promote collaboration in WIL research and the sharing of resources.



Priorities

We prioritise studies that:

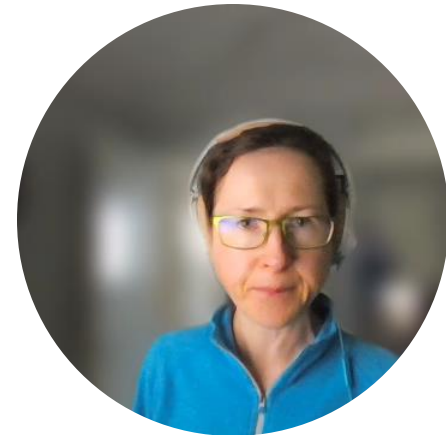
1. articulate meaningful measurements of WIL impact
2. are underpinned by theory and evidence
3. advance knowledge and expertise in WIL
4. produce theoretically informed, tangible outputs of practical use to its membership, and
5. clearly link to WIL Australia's current strategic plan.



2026 Grant Themes

1. Scalable and sustainable WIL models
2. Collaborating with purpose for impact
3. Mobilising students for lifelong learning and career development
4. Evaluating and enhancing WIL quality, access and inclusion

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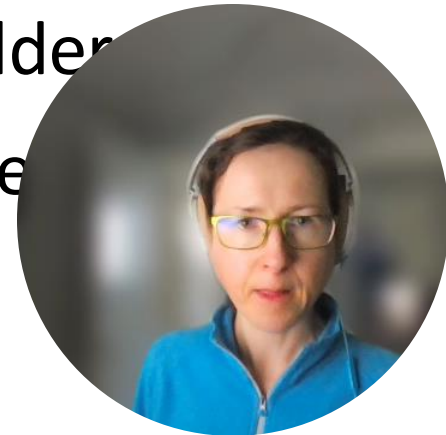


Past successful grants

Allied Health Students Work Integrated Learning (WIL) during Rural Clinical Placement

Project Lead: Romany Martin, University of Tasmania

- This project triangulated student, clinical educator and university WIL manager perspectives, and explored the sector wide support needs of rural WIL to pursue wellbeing for all WIL stakeholders
- 2022 Themes this project aligned to were: Fostering Partnerships in WIL; and Wellbeing and support during WIL.



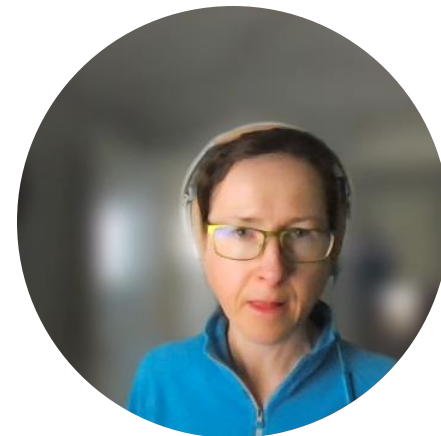
Reporting requirements

- Complete projects within twelve-months.
- Present at a WIL Australia event within 24 months of funding commencing.
- Submit a project report for publication on our website.
- Submit a statutory declaration detailing how funds were spent.



Selection criteria

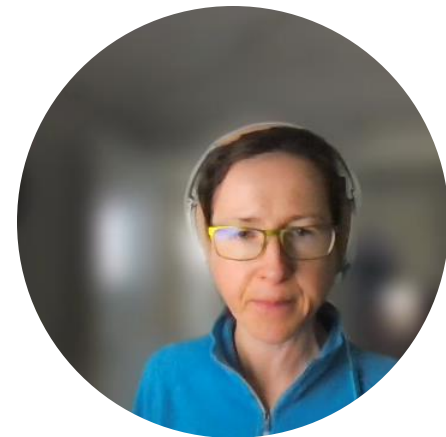
- Significance to one or more of the research grant themes.
- Quality of the design and methodology.
- Potential impact and transferability of project outcomes.
- Capacity of the project to deliver proposed outcomes.
- Involvement of early career researchers in Full Research Grant applications.



How to apply

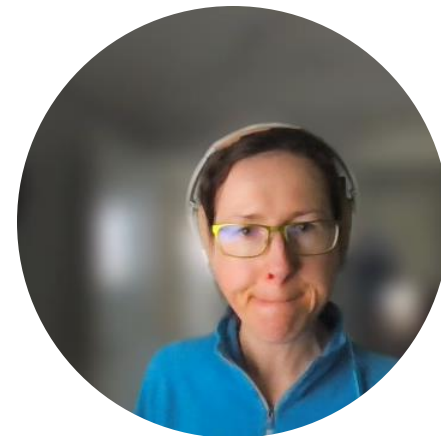
- Online form

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Key dates

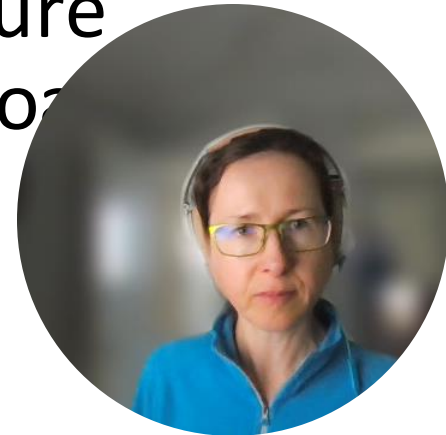
- Applications open: Mon 2 Feb, 9:00am
- Close: Wed 1 Apr, 5:00pm
- Notifications: Early June
- Feedback to unsuccessful applicants: End June



Interested to review grants?

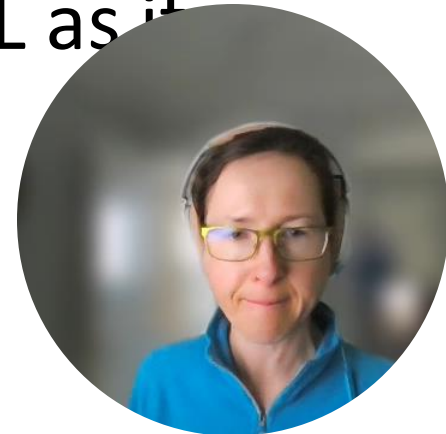
Expressions of interest to be involved in the 2026 Research Grant review process are open and can be submitted via [this survey](#).

This important task is an opportunity to assist WIL Australia while gaining insight into the grants process (for future applications) and the latest research ideas and approaches in WIL.



Get the most out of your membership!

- Read our newsletter.
- Attend Chapter events and our biennial Conference.
- Connect with us on LinkedIn.
- Join our webinars series for professional development on the latest research and key themes in WIL.
- Engage in our Research Conversations – friendly, informal gatherings, with a strong focus on research and SoTL as it relates to WIL.



Enquiries

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