



The Work Integrated Learning Program (WIL) for Vision Science offers an unparalleled opportunity to bridge the gap between theory and practice, allowing students to apply their academic knowledge in real-world settings. This program is designed for students passionate about exploring the intricate world of vision, eye health, and the cutting-edge technologies shaping the field.

### Key Benefits:

- **Practical Experience:** Gain hands-on industry exposure before graduation, applying theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios.
- **Skill Development:** Enhance problem-solving, communication, and teamwork skills essential for future career success.
- **Industry Collaboration:** Collaborate with leading companies and professionals in ophthalmic industry, gaining insights into industry standards and emerging technologies.
- **Academic Credit:** Earn credit towards your degree while gaining valuable practical experience.
- **Personal Growth:** Develop confidence, resilience, and a sense of accomplishment as you tackle meaningful projects and contribute to ophthalmic field.
- **Competitive Advantage:** Stand out to employers with demonstrated practical experience, industry connections, and readiness for the workforce.

### Eligibility:

- Students enrolled in the third year of Bachelor of Vision Science (Program 3181) or Bachelor of Vision Science/Master of Clinical Optometry (Program 3182).
- A weighted average mark of 60 and above at the time of application
- Good academic standing
- Performance in interviews

## Application process

Expressions of interest (EOI) will be sought from students in June or July each year for placements in Term 3, Summer Term (January to February), or Term 1 for full-term enrolment. The EOI will involve a *personal statement, uploading the latest academic statement and an interview*. The EOI form will be made available on school's website from July each year. The EOIs will be assessed by a school selection committee considering academic performance and the interview outcomes. Successful applicants will receive email notifications for enrolment into Career Development courses offered by PVCSS. The typical duration of a WIL placement is 105 hours to 15 days to 168 hours (24 days) (6 Units of Credits) or one full-term (10 weeks, 12 Units of Credits). The duration of the placement is typically determined by the industry partner, considering the scope of the WIL project.

## Frequently asked questions

### **Q. Do WIL Courses count towards General Education (GenEd) requirements for Bachelor of Vision Science or Bachelor of Vision Science/Master of Clinical Optometry programs?**

A. Yes, WIL courses are counted towards GenEd for the Vision Science and Optometry programs. Completion of 12 UoC by the end of Bachelor in Vision Science

### **Q: If I've already completed 12 UoC of GenEd, am I still eligible for the WIL program?**

A: Yes, you remain eligible to apply for the WIL program. However, please note that this may result in additional expenses, potentially increasing your student loan via HECS-HELP (for domestic students).

### **Q: If I'm interested in a specific field (e.g. Eye Health promotion), can I select the industry partner I want to work with?**

A: You can indicate your areas of interest when expressing your interest in participating in the WIL program. If your application is successful, the WIL program coordinator will endeavour to match you with an industry partner aligned with your chosen area. However, this depends on whether the industry partner has an agreement with UNSW.

### **Q: Can I propose an industry partner I wish to work with?**

A: Industry partners must legally agree to participate in the UNSW Vision Science WIL program. You may specify your preferred partner in your expression of interest, and the WIL program coordinator will strive to secure an agreement with them. However, this may result in a delay in commencing the WIL program in the intended term.

### **Q: Are the placements typically located in NSW or Sydney?**

A: While most placements are within NSW or Sydney, some may involve interstate travel.

**Q: Will I be paid by the industry partner during my placement?**

A: The main objective of the WIL placement is to offer students valuable industry experience before they graduate. Therefore, students are not remunerated for their participation. However, it's worth noting that certain industry partners may offer support such as transport, accommodation, or meals to their students, though this is not guaranteed and this is not facilitated by UNSW.

**Q: Are there any scholarships or funding options to assist with the WIL placement?**

A: Regrettably, there is currently no support provided by the school or university. Students are responsible for financing their own placements.

**Q: Is it possible to undertake my WIL placement during the Summer Term instead of Term 3?**

A: This option is contingent upon the project's requirements and the industry partner's availability during the summer period.

**Q: What occurs upon the approval of my application?**

A: The Course Development program coordinator will facilitate your enrolment in the relevant WIL course. Following this, you will be introduced to an industry partner who has agreed to collaborate for the specified duration, either during Term 3 or the Summer Term.

**Q: If I enrol in a 6UoC WIL course, must I dedicate a continuous 2-week block to work?**

A: Whether you work continuously for 2 weeks or spread your commitment over Term 3 depends on the industry partner and project requirements.