

# No limits

WorleyParsons **welcomes WIL students** without limitations



One of the more interesting reasons engineering and resources services firm WorleyParsons cited for participating in work integrated learning (WIL), was a student's ability to think freely. "WorleyParsons has a rich entrepreneurial history and from this we encourage a fresh, energetic outlook in the workplace," said Warrick Kent, the firm's Graduate Development Advisor. "As WIL students generally do not have prior work experience they are not inhibited by corporate norms; this enables them to see the potential difference they can make in the workplace," he added.

WorleyParsons is a leading provider of professional services to the energy, resource and complex process industries in Australia. It is one of Australia's largest employers of professional engineers and, with employee growth recently rising by 50 percent, is firmly focussed on ensuring its Graduate Development Program attracts the best and brightest engineering students. WIL complements other recruiting pathways, and for the past three years, the firm has offered employment to each of its WIL students. The current WIL student will join WorleyParsons when he completes university.

“The best WIL placements benefit the organisation and the student”

Warrick Kent

Warrick Kent said the best WIL placements are those where the work performed by the students is beneficial to the organisation and to the student:

“From our point of view we need to see value out of the placement. The role needs to be well planned to ensure both parties realise benefits. A placement at a client site is usually the best way of achieving that aim.”

WorleyParsons' most recent WIL student, Brad Phillips, is studying Instrumentation and Control Engineering as part of a four year Bachelor of Engineering degree at Murdoch University and is spending his 16-week placement working at WorleyParsons' client site at BP Kwinana in Perth. The placement makes up 12.5% of the student's mark for the course.



“A site placement is one of the best you can offer because of the invaluable experience students receive. They can work on an actual client project and experience the process that leads to the output. To a large extent they are treated as professional engineers so they need to hit the ground running,” Warrick said.

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Site placements involve working within a project team and reporting to the Senior Engineer at the client site and the Chief Engineer in the Perth CBD.

“Our WIL students get real life client experience and learn how to prioritise and manage challenging work loads. It is extremely important for students to experience how theory converts into practice.

That’s how it starts to make sense,” Warrick said.

With three employees recruited from three WIL placements Warrick is optimistic about next year. “We will definitely look at another WIL student,” he said.

**[www.worleyparsons.com](http://www.worleyparsons.com)**

*WorleyParsons is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Western Australia.*

## Working in partnership key to successful placement

The process WorleyParsons and Murdoch University shared to ensure the WIL placement was successful, offers valuable insight to other employers.

“Murdoch University is one of the best known universities for teaching Instrumentation and we have a close relationship,” said Warrick Kent.

Warrick explained communications between the parties in relation to organising the WIL placement was always professional. Before the placement was finalised, the Chief Engineer from WorleyParsons designed and assigned the tasks for the student which were then agreed by the Dean of Murdoch University’s School of Engineering and Energy. The process included writing a position description for the WIL role.

“We found the experience extremely rewarding. Murdoch clearly outlined the parameters of the WIL program and identified the skills they expected their student engineers to learn from the program,” said Warrick.

Warrick Kent was also impressed by Murdoch’s University’s assistance through the process. “They were very responsive and quickly answered our queries.



Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) and Innovative Research Universities (IRU) are working in partnership to assist small, medium and large businesses to participate in work integrated learning programs. IRU members are: Charles Darwin University, Flinders University, Griffith University, James Cook University, La Trobe University, Murdoch University and The University of Newcastle.

Participating ACCI members are: ACT and Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Business SA, Chamber of Commerce and Industry Northern Territory, Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland, Chamber of Commerce and Industry Western Australia, NSW Business Chamber, Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Victorian Employers’ Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

For more information on WIL partnerships for employers please go to:  
[www.iru.edu.au/group-activities/wil](http://www.iru.edu.au/group-activities/wil) or [www.acci.asn.au](http://www.acci.asn.au)