Considerations for students undertaking WIL experiences

Why is this resource needed?

Navigating generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) is complex and will likely be part of your work-integrated (WIL) experience. This resource provides thought-provoking questions to guide your understanding and actions in using GenAI during WIL experiences.

Who is it for?

This resource is for students who are enrolled in higher education and undertaking a WIL experience – such as a placement, internship, industry project or other industry-based activity – as part of their studies. During your WIL experience, you may encounter varying practices, tools, and levels of GenAI adoption compared to what is accessible and permissible at university. You may even find there are some restrictions on the use of GenAI tools that you are familiar with. This resource helps you navigate these differences, understand workplace policies, norms, and tools, and explore GenAI's potential for learning and work ethically and constructively.

What is GenAI?

GenAI is changing the way we work, learn, and produce information. By GenAI we mean computer-based learning models that generate text, images, and other content based on the data on which they are trained and in response to human inputs.[1] While there are many publicly accessible tools, your university and host organisation may also subscribe to secure AI tools.[2]

How to use this resource

This resource encourages reflection on various topics, allowing you to choose questions that fit your context. You can use this resource independently, or your educators can use these questions to design activities for student self-reflection or peer discussions. The questions are organised around stages in the WIL experience: before, during, and afterwards. For practical ideas for how to use GenAI in WIL, explore the *Examples of GenAI in WIL* table.

[1] Examples of GenAI tools include ChatGPT, Claude and Co-Pilot; however, there are an increasing number entering the market, including AI apps beyond chatbots.

[2] A secure GenAI tool is authenticated (using your organisation's IT credentials), logged (sessions are archived), and secured (data stays within the organisation and is not accessible to AI companies).

Things to think about

Before your WIL experience	
Articulating your current views on GenAI	**Personal position:** How do you feel about using GenAI for university or personal use? **Comfort level:** How do you feel about sharing your use of GenAI with others? **Bias and misuse:** What are your thoughts on the potential biases or misuses of GenAI tools?
Previous GenAI use	**Previous use:** How have you used GenAI before (e.g., for brainstorming, writing, summarising, or editing)? **Impact on learning:** How has using GenAI affected your learning? Can you give examples of when it was helpful or not useful?
Understanding your field	**Professional field:** What do you know about your chosen professional field (e.g., health, finance, engineering) and its use of GenAI? **Industry trends:** What are the current trends in your chosen professional field regarding the use of GenAI? How do you expect these trends to influence your WIL experience? **Regulatory environment:** Do you know any regulations or guidelines in your field about using GenAI? How can you find out more before your WIL experience starts? How can you make sure you follow these rules during your WIL experience?
Preparing for the WIL experience	**Refining learning objectives:** How could you use GenAI to craft and refine your learning objectives for this WIL experience? **Organisational research:** Can GenAI help you do research about the organisation or role you're entering? **Preparing orientation questions:** How could you use GenAI to help write a list of questions for your host supervisor or mentor to support your induction? **Ethical concerns:** What worries or ethical concerns do you have about using GenAI going into this WIL experience? (Please see 'Red Flags' section below.)
Tools and learning	**Current tools:** What GenAI tools have you been using in your learning that you might want to keep using during the WIL experience? **Learning goals:** During the WIL experience, what do you want to learn about regarding GenAI (e.g., industry-specific or corporate/proprietary tools)? **Skill development:** What specific skills related to GenAI do you hope to develop during your WIL experience? How can you plan your work-based activities to achieve these learning goals? **Mentorship and support:** Who can you turn to for guidance and support regarding the use of GenAI during your WIL experience? (See 'Where do I go if I'm not sure?' section below.)
Privacy and security	**Data handling:** How will you handle sensitive data when using GenAI tools? **Concerns:** What are the privacy or security concerns you have, or need to be aware of? **Organisational rules:** What do you need to learn about this organisation's rules for using GenAI before starting your WIL experience?
Projecting long-term impact	**Career pathways:** How do you think proficiency in GenAI will influence your career opportunities? **Career vision:** How do you envision the long-term impact of GenAI on your career?
Continuous learning	**Staying updated:** GenAI is moving rapidly – how can you stay updated on the latest developments before you start your WIL experience? **Professional development:** What professional development opportunities (e.g., workshops, online courses) are available to enhance your GenAI skills?

During your WIL experience	
Orienting to the work context	**Adaptation:** How well are you adapting to the use of GenAI in this organisation? What challenges are you facing in relation to GenAI, and how can you overcome them? **Learning from colleagues:** How are your colleagues using GenAI in their roles? What could you learn from their practices and experiences? **Feedback mechanisms:** How could you seek constructive feedback on your use of GenAI from your supervisor and peers? **Regulatory environment:** How can you ensure compliance with workplace or industry regulations that govern the use of GenAI during your WIL experience?
Employability and professional development	**Skill enhancement:** What new skills related to GenAI are you developing during this WIL experience? **Resource utilisation:** What resources (e.g., training materials, online courses) are available within the organisation to help you improve your GenAI skills?
Reflective practice	**Learning journal:** In what ways might a learning journal help you capture and reflect on your interactions with GenAI during your WIL experience? **Peer discussions:** How might you initiate and participate in discussions with peers about your experiences with GenAI? What valuable insights could emerge from these conversations?

Red Flags to watch out for before, during and after your WIL experience

Be aware of situations that may potentially breach ethical, security, or privacy practices. These include:

- Entering client, patient, organisational or human data into an unsecured or public GenAI tool.
- Claiming GenAI work as your own or hiding, omitting, or obscuring that you have used GenAI to produce work.
- Sharing anything from your use of GenAI tools outside your host organisation without permission; as with all internal information you encounter or create, your host organisation owns it.
- Validity or accuracy of information it generates.

Reconsider before engaging in these actions to ensure you maintain ethical standards and professional integrity.

GenAI risks

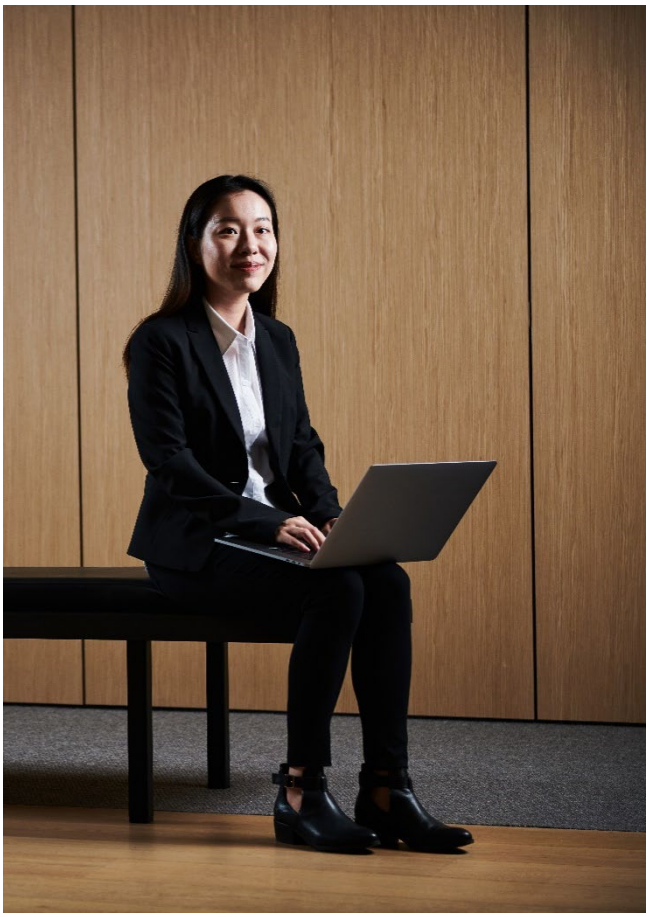
- **Data security and consent:** Have I ensured that any client, patient, organisational, or human data entered into GenAI tools is secure and consented to?
- **Attribution and transparency:** Am I being transparent about my use of GenAI in my work?
- **Information sharing:** Have I obtained the necessary permissions before sharing any information generated by GenAI tools outside my host organization?
- **Information accuracy:** How can I verify the validity and accuracy of the information produced by GenAI?

After your WIL experience	
Usefulness and effectiveness	**Useful tools:** What kinds of GenAI tools were useful during your WIL experience? Are you likely to use these again? **Effective uses:** What were some effective ways you used GenAI?
Challenges and expectations	**Changing opinions:** How has your WIL experience influenced your views on using GenAI? Have your insights or practices impacted how others perceive or utilise GenAI? **Challenges faced:** Did you have any tricky experiences where you wanted to use GenAI but couldn't? Were the organisation's expectations different from the university's policy or practice, or your own expectations?
Human element	**Human tasks:** What were the uniquely human tasks still required of you?
Professional skills	**Professional competence:** How could you leverage GenAI to unpack how the skills and knowledge gained from this experience align with professional standards or competence for this specific practice area?
Learning and development	**Learning opportunities:** Were there aspects of GenAI that you didn't get a chance to explore during your WIL experience?
Career management	**Updating resume:** How can you use GenAI to update your resume with your new skills and knowledge gained from this WIL experience? **Recording experiences:** In what ways could GenAI be useful for recording, summarising and analysing key skills developed during your WIL experience?
Communication	**Writing letter of thanks:** How could you draw on GenAI to write a note of appreciation to industry or university staff?
Social media	**Sharing your WIL experience:** How can you use GenAI to write a social media post to showcase key learnings?
Future applications	**Carrying forward:** What aspects of your experience with GenAI will you carry forward into your future career and learning? Consider both positive and negative aspects. **Applying knowledge:** How will you apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes you gained from working with GenAI in WIL to future or prospective employers?
Advice and goals	**Advice for others:** What general advice would you give other students using GenAI for WIL, and what specific advice would you share about using it in respect to your organisation? **Future goals:** What goals do you now have with respect to using (or not using) GenAI?

Where do I go if I'm not sure?

If you require more support understanding, accessing or using GenAI, but are unsure where to go, consider the following options.

- **Explore institutional resources**: Consider exploring various resources within your institution for additional support and information on GenAI, such as workshops, seminars, or online resources provided by your academic department or library.
- **Seek advice:** Chat to your WIL advisor, peers, lecturers and tutors, as well as staff in Student Support services including academic learning advisors, library staff, or IT staff.
- **Source professional learning:** Take the initiative to educate yourself through platforms like LinkedIn Learning or other online modules.
- **Be self-directed:** Experiment with GenAI tools within your institution's policy framework. This proactive approach will help you navigate and leverage GenAI effectively.



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