

SUMMER RESEARCH 2024/25

PROJECT ABSTRACT



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Tē Whare Wānanga o Waikato

PROJECT # 65

SUPERVISOR/S:	Dr Sandy Muller & Anthony Richardson
PROJECT TITLE:	Extension of Investigative research on equitable status and opportunities in work-integrated practice across the University of Waikato
FIELD:	Work-Integrated Learning
DIVISION/SCHOOL:	Deputy Vice Chancellor - Academic (OVC)
PROJECT LOCATION:	Hamilton

PROJECT ABSTRACT:

Work-integrated learning is now a compulsory element in every undergraduate degree, implemented because of the real benefits to students in bridging the gap between their Disciplinary studies, and their future career. However, we are not certain that all students are being given equal opportunities. This study will look at the practices in each School, with a lens on investigating if students with accessibility needs or disabilities are catered for. Alongside this, opportunities to embed inclusion in current practice will be sought. In a previous Summer Research Scholarship, we have completed a literature review of current practice nationally, and internationally. This scholarship also initiated student surveys gaining insight into the experience of taura from a cross section of undergraduate degrees offered at the University of Waikato. This extension of the equity project will gain more detailed insight through individual interviews. The information gained from the initial survey and planned interviews will be analysed to both determine good practice, but also to determine gaps for improvement. The final output is hoped to be a co-authored paper for the International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning (IJWIL) and / or conference presentation for the WILNZ Conference, April 2025 in Hawkes Bay.

STUDENT SKILLS:

- Excellent communication skills, including writing and engaging with others
- Data analysis
- Critical thinking

PROJECT TASKS:

1. Conduct interviews within the agreed parameters determined by the Human Research Ethics Committee.
2. Analyse data
3. Draft the representation of the analysed data
4. Collate recommendations of good practice to share with all Schools to improve equity of WIL to disabled students.
5. Prepare a final poster.
6. Prepare a paper for IJWIL, or presentation for the WILNZ conference in 2025.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- Student's Research Poster (as per clause 6 of the [Scholarship regulations](#))
- Completed questionnaire to inform data analysis
- Data analysis of previous survey findings and interviews
- Co-authored paper and / or conference presentation