

## RUN LEARNING AND TEACHING AWARDS 2023

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**Title:** A Virtual WIL Model Built for the Regions

**Abstract:** Rural and remote students face many access challenges, including access to a range of Work Integrated Learning (WIL) opportunities. The regions, particularly in rural and remote areas, also face challenges with attracting and retaining staff. UniSQ's Virtual WIL initiative, established 2 years ago, has provided WIL opportunities to over 2000 students, improved our engagement with rural and remote employers by 300%, and improved employment outcomes for students in the regions.

Co-designed with our industry partners, our Virtual WIL projects help students achieve their course learning outcomes and provide them with an authentic industry project to work on. Over the life of the initiative, 292 industry projects have been developed, for over 2000 students in a wide range of disciplines.

Our Virtual WIL initiative ensures WIL opportunities for all students, regardless of their location, and builds an awareness of the industries and employment opportunities that exist within the regions. The initiative has proven effective at minimising barriers faced by online and rural and remote students.

By fostering greater industry engagement and providing virtual WIL opportunities, we are paving the way for a more inclusive and resilient workforce in the regions.