

Work- Based Learning Connector Work Experience Checklist

Quick tips for Work-Based Learning Coordinators¹ to ensure a successful work experience.

Before the Work Experience

- Define the work experience program structure (timeframe, expectations, host expectations, and staff support, for example).
- Identify all interested teachers/faculty and help them plan for the work experience activity.
- Prepare teachers/faculty and encourage them to support and leverage the work experience. Share and review the Teacher/Faculty Tip Sheet with them.
- Work with teachers/faculty to create a list of interested and qualified students/learners.
- Select and refer appropriate candidates for interviews, matched to employer/supervisor specifications.
- Provide supervisor with the Employer Work Experience Tip Sheet and What Every Worksite Supervisor Should Know.
- Determine the worksite supervisor's preferred form and frequency of contact.
- Distribute and collect appropriate forms.
- Identify learning objectives and complete the WBL Plan
- Address any transportation or safety gear needs.

During the Work Experience

- If possible, meet with students/learners and worksite supervisors at their workplaces and observe workplace activities. Make sure these visits are pre-arranged with the host and don't disrupt workflow.
- Regularly assess student/learner progress and impact of the experience.

After the Work Experience

- Have the worksite supervisor complete the WSS Evaluation and review with the student/learner.
- Document the work experience in ELENA. Get feedback from employers and teachers/faculty and summarize the results using the WBL Activity Evaluation.
- Help students/learners update their Resume' and career development plan and think about any next steps they would like to take to further their career goals.
- Work with teachers/faculty to coordinate "go deeper" activities to connect the work experience to the classroom and their career goals.
- Take pictures from the work experience and provide them to the company for use on their website or newsletter. Ensure you have signed releases for all photos.
- Publicize the work experience and the business that participated by placing a story in the local newspaper or posting on the school or agency webpage.
- Consider other potential public relations benefits and opportunities.

Sample Work Experience Timeline

Beginning of the school/program year or cycle: Identify interested teachers/faculty and brainstorm business partners who could participate.

Two months in advance: Invite business partners to list opportunities and post in ELENA.

One month in advance: Screen students/learners to employer specifications and arrange for interviews with the employer.

One week in advance: Confirm selection and make sure the student/learner has proper documentation.

During work experience: Visit worksite, if possible, and observe workplace activities. Provide support and address any issues that may arise.

After work experience: Send thank-you notes to employers and supervisors and ensure student/learner reflection activities take place.

¹ This includes Earn & Learn work-based learning connectors and others who facilitate, arrange and support work-based learning activities for students/learners.