Building research collaboration amongst students, academics and industry through international mobility work integrated research-based programs.

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Research Symposium
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Corporate world feels that soft skills are crucial in the workplace and that these skills should form part of the curriculum during education’ (Deepa & Seth, 2013).
Employability Dilemma

There is growing ‘concern among business executives and professors is that high school graduates do not have the set of soft skills they need to be successful in college or the work place’ (Robles 2012, p.460).

Employability is the student’s ability to: ‘Discern, acquire, adapt and continually enhance the skills, understandings and personal attributes that make them more likely to find and create meaningful paid and unpaid work that benefits themselves, the workforce, the community and the economy’ (Oliver 2015, p. 59)
Push for Research Output & Funding

AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPE IS CHANGING
Employers want and need more!

“Can we teach what Industry needs of our graduates?” If so, how?
“How can the pedagogy of constructive alignment (the way we set the curriculum) be refined to correlate industry needs into learning outcomes for graduates?”

“Innovation in business education – internationally: Collaboration between academics with & for students”
Is this the answer?

Work Integrated Learning Unit -
Learn by doing

→ Teaching what the industry expects from future professionals
→ Innovation in business education – international collaboration between professionals, academic staff and students
NO MORE:

Boring Lectures

 Angry  Possessed  Focused  Bored

Couldn't Care Less
Linking all Higher Ed stakeholders

OUTPUT driven International Mobility experience

@ UG level
Combine practical studies (Project-Based Learning) with Research studies and links to industry.

Research studies as part of your semester abroad

Semester studies (30 or 40 cps)

Project Based Learning (10 cps)
Consultant role play (group work) engage with industry

Research Based Learning (30 cps)
Research project (with a supervisor) and one research methodology unit
WIL – UG Learning by Doing “PBL & RBL”

1. **WIL driven by Industry / Academics for Students**
   - Combine students (domestic and international) with industry (expectations vs. needs) and academics. Partnership pedagogy
   - ‘Prepare students for the profession & give them the ‘X’ factor’: **output focused international mobility experience**

2. **Soft-skill development**

3. **PBL (Project Based Learning) / RBL (Research Based Learning)**
   - Future of business is Human (Deloitte 2019) - soft skills are crucial in the workplace

**Choice at WSU:**

1. **Capstone unit (PBL)**: Consultant Role Play (group work) / engaged project given by client 10 CP (selective placements are also available)
2. **International Research experience (RBL)**: 1 Project (20CP unit + 10CP online research module) for the duration of 1 semester.

   Academic research project or Industry project – student choice of pathway
   - Participation and presentation of findings at conference (in-house)/ academic seminar
   - Publication: student as first author
   - Collaboration between home and intl. academics (if project is of interest to both parties)

> student/ academic collaboration

**FOCUSSED INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY EXPERIENCE**
Outcomes

- Academic collaboration between home and host universities
- Publication with student as part of the semester abroad experience
- 2 project tracks: Industry RBL and Academic RBL = industry collaboration and linking industry to Higher Education
- Student presents during an academic conference
- Future funding / industry & path for HDR students (international comparative studies) for “thesis requirement”
Undergraduate Student Research at Zeppelin University
ZU in Numbers

Locations
| ZF Campus & SeeCampus at Lake Constance (Friedrichshafen)

Students
| 1,060 currently enrolled students
| Tuition fees: 17,520 to 37,920 Euro per study program
| ca. 36% take a loan (brain capital), 13% BAföG (federal financial aid) and 18% scholarships

Professors
| 28 Professors

Partners
| Universities: more than 80 partners worldwide
| Organizations & companies: more than 500 accredited TalentCenter-Partners
| Talent support: cooperation with 13 foundations
Zeppelin-Year & Humboldt-Year

→ Two-fold solution to integrate research-based learning (RBL) in our BA programs

Semesters 6 & 7: Humboldt-Year
Optional: undergraduate research project (individual and interdisciplinary)

| 18 - 21 CP: Research work
| 3 CP: Research colloquium

Semesters 1 & 2: Zeppelin-Year
several weeks of research in groups
| 14 - 20 CP: research work + presentation (depending on the study program)
Student Research Day

• once per semester
• organised by university’s staff and students
• students present their results to peers and supervisors
• discuss their research with professors
• connect with other students
• increase visibility of student research
EXTERNAL FUNDING FOR RESEARCH
Visiting Student Research Program

• new program!
• designed for international students
• first visiting students: FALL 2019
• 1 semester
• program includes: travel grant to Germany, funding for conference(s), supervision, German language course, advice for visa, accommodation & insurance, cultural activities (student groups)

Supported by the State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg for Sciences, Research and Arts!
http://zeppelining-university.com/visiting
Why Undergraduate Student Research?

• promote student-centered learning in higher education
• innovative teaching method (despite more coaching time and administration)
• inspiring learning environment
• (inter)disciplinary skills and knowledge / academic learning
• soft skills (→ employability)
My Visiting Student Research Experience

- Fresh, unique and challenging
- Outside my comfort zone
- A new perspective as an international student
- Opening up future research experiences
My Expectations

• Before:
  • Open-minded – no experience to compare
  • Challenging – my own research from start to finish

• After:
  • Eclectic experiences – cultural, personal and social
  • Skill improvement – academic and non-academic
  • Motivation – personal reflection and reform
"The Zeppelin-Project throws students in at the deep end: they must develop scientific questions, scrutinize these questions and implement them in group work settings; all this is done through the course of learning. In this process, uncertainties that arise from the liberal framework must be harnessed and experienced for oneself from a new perspective in the team setting."

- Ute Barthelmeß (former student)

“The biggest challenge was probably to settle on an answerable question. Which research question seems to be interesting enough to work on over such a long period of time, and which question is precise enough to be addressed by a student research project?”

- Clara Schüttler (current student)

“I think that the exposure to a different culture and environment is always good. This motivated me to do my research abroad. Such an experience also provides one with the opportunity to learn, engage and build strong connections.”

- Hlulani Mathebula (visiting student)

“During my studies, I had the unique opportunity to conduct undergraduate research and publish an edited book. This experience has not only honed my academic skills and strengthened my love for research, but it has also opened my eyes for the chances as well as challenges of student research. In essence, life-long learning transcends university education and signifies a self-motivated pursuit of knowledge – Zeppelin University aims to teach the tools with which to achieve exactly that.”

- Dr Aynur Erdogan (Director Student Research at ZU)
2021 International Student Research Conference at Lake Constance