

8. WORK-INTEGRATED EDUCATION (WIE)

8.1 WIE is a mandatory component of the Programme. There are a few routes or options for the students to pursue Work-Integrated Education (WIE). These options include the summer internship, the One-year Internship Scheme (OIS) and other workplace training opportunities provided by the University or found by students themselves, etc.

8.2 Credits Requirement

In order to graduate from this programme, students must attain a minimum of two WIE training credits within the period of study. Following the Faculty of Engineering's guideline, students will be awarded one WIE training credit for acquiring two weeks' full-time training. WIE training credits will not be counted towards the Grade Point Average (GPA) or the Weighted GPA (WGPA). After assessing the training performance, a Pass or a Fail grade will be awarded to the student on his/her WIE component.

8.3 Intended Learning Outcomes of WIE

Since WIE can take different forms and be applied to different kinds of job, the learning outcomes to be achieved vary depending on the job nature and its duration engaged by the student. However, based on the experience gained, WIE can bring a lot of advantages to students' learning both in the profession-specific areas and in their all-round development. The intended learning outcomes of WIE are elaborated in the following paragraph.

On successful completion of the WIE component, the students will be able to:

- (i) Apply knowledge and skills learned from the Programme on the job in a broad context of information security profession.
- (ii) Recognize the operation and requirement of real-life business, leading to the development of entrepreneurship, global outlook, professional ethics, social and cultural understanding.
- (iii) Recognize the expectation of employers, hence leading to better employability.
- (iv) Develop their all-round attributes such as interpersonal skills and leadership.
- (v) Develop their critical and creative thinking, and problem-solving skills while taking into account various real-life constraints, helping them to pursue life-long learning and continuing professional development.

8.4 Structure of the WIE Component(s)

WIE component under the Programme can be in several forms, including summer internship, One-year Internship Scheme (OIS) and other job opportunities.

8.4.1 Summer Internship

By taking summer internship, students will work in an ICT-related organization during summer months for at least one month. Students can learn the operation and requirements of real-life ICT industry, and have the chance to apply the knowledge and skills learned from the Programme to a broad context of an ICT profession.

8.4.2 One-year Internship Scheme (OIS)

The OIS lasts for 1 year. Under the OIS, the students will pursue Year 1 in full time and then engage in industrial training in Year 2. After the industrial training year, the students will pursue their final-year study in full time again. Normally the students will graduate at the end of Year 3 after having satisfied all programme requirements.

Students who would like to join the OIS are required to submit an application to the Department prior to the commencement of the industrial training. They can choose to take 0 to 8 credits of subject in a semester during the industrial training year. The amount of tuition fee to be paid during the industrial training year will depend on the number of credits taken by the students in a semester.

8.4.3 Other Job Opportunities

It is possible that students find ICT-related jobs for themselves to work during the summer vacation. This kind of job opportunity will be judged by the Department whether it is helpful to the students in achieving the intended learning outcomes of WIE and relevant to the ICT profession. The students and the Academic Advisor/WIE Coordinators will work collaboratively with regard to the job selection and the subsequent training contents.

The Department will constantly monitor the progress of student's training. At the end of the training, an assessment will be made on the achievement of learning outcomes.

8.5 Guidelines for Operation and Supervision of WIE

The Department adopts a set of strategies to support students' learning in the workplace. The followings are the details of the operation at different stages.

8.5.1 Preparation

The Department will actively align with the industry to get WIE placement opportunities for students. It is important for students to be fully aware of the benefits brought by WIE. Students will be asked to attend employment seminars as early as possible. Through this type of arrangement, students in all years will be well prepared for job hunting and employment in advance. Students will also be able to realize the benefits for engaging in WIE and the importance of taking an active role in completing the training with the best effort.

8.5.2 Operation

There will be WIE Coordinators overseeing all matters related to WIE activities under the Programme. The WIE Coordinators are the academic staff members of the Department responsible for the organization and operation of WIE activities. To guide the students and monitor their progress in taking the WIE, each student will be assigned an academic advisor from the Department. The student and his/her Academic Advisor will jointly plan the WIE details, such as job selection, training plan, logging of activities, reporting, and assessment.

In the case that the student finds job placement(s) on his/her own, the Academic Advisor will work with the student to design the learning outcomes if the placement is suitable to be recognized as a WIE activity. The Academic Advisor will make frequent contacts with the student and, if appropriate, the employer to monitor the progress of the student.

Each student will be guided by his/her Academic Advisor when conducting the WIE training. The student's work will be monitored continuously and an assessment will be given when the WIE placement is completed.

8.5.3 Assessment of the WIE Component(s)

The objective of assessment is to determine what the student has achieved through WIE. The actual type of work and duration will vary from case to case.

Hence, an assessment framework is set out in the following as a general guideline.

(i) Continuous Assessment

The Academic Advisor may visit the student during the training period so that the Academic Advisor and the employer will be able to discuss the student's performance together. This will give better feedback on the student's performance before the training is completed.

(ii) Report

After the training is completed, the student is required to submit a report to the Academic Advisor. The details to be contained in the report should be commensurate with the training duration. It contains a brief reflective writing on the training received, the objectives that have been achieved, and the experience gained. The student may also conduct a self-evaluation on his/her own performance. The report must be endorsed by the student's employer before its submission.

(iii) Employer Evaluation

At the end of the training period, the employer will provide an evaluation of the student's performance, assessing the student's work and all-round development.

(iv) Overall Assessment

An overall assessment of the student's performance will be made by the Academic Advisor by considering all the assessment components as stated in Section 8.5.3(i)-(iii). A pass grade will be given to the student upon satisfactory completion of the WIE component; otherwise a failure grade will be given.