



BC WIL Survey

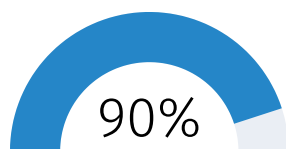
Understanding how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted work-integrated learning employers and community partners in BC

Executive summary

Between September 2020 and May 2021, the BC WIL Council conducted research to better understand the evolving impacts of COVID-19 with employers and community partners who typically hire students through work-integrated learning (WIL) programs.

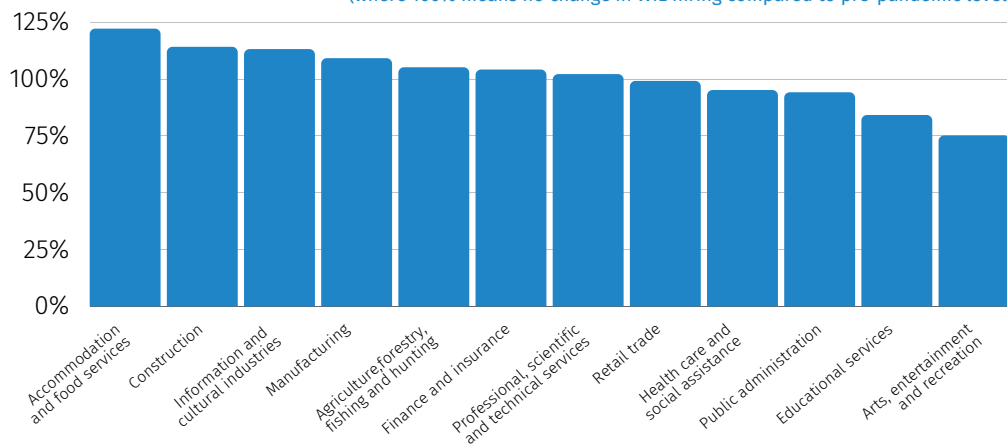
Overall, survey respondents were confident that the outlook for WIL is positive, with some industries, regions and types of WIL expected to surpass pre-COVID-19 hiring levels. The survey also revealed that challenges with funding WIL student placements and difficulty with recruiting, onboarding, and supervising students remotely top the list of issues affecting future WIL hiring.

Work-integrated learning (WIL) is a partnership between workplaces, post-secondary institutions, and post-secondary students, where workplaces provide an opportunity for students to apply their classroom learning to a real work environment and benefit from the skills, knowledge, and energy that students bring.

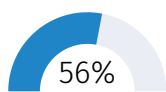


90% of survey respondents agree that the outlook for WIL engagements in their organization is promising.

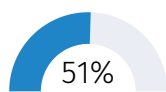
Expected WIL hiring for the next 6 to 12 months, compared to usual WIL hiring, by sector (where 100% means no change in WIL hiring compared to pre-pandemic levels)



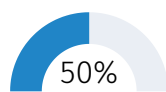
Finances/funding top challenges expected to impact WIL hirings



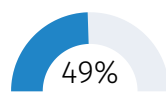
Economic and financial issues



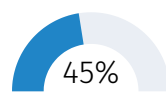
Challenges in obtaining sufficient funding for student placements



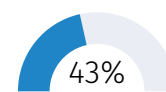
Challenges in finding funding for student placements



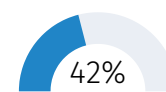
Finding students with the required skills and qualifications



Difficulty recruiting and onboarding students remotely



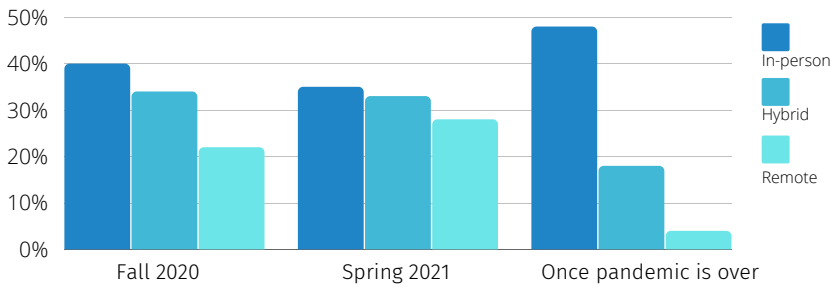
Lack of staff to supervise/mentor students



Difficulty supervising students remotely

In-person work preferred

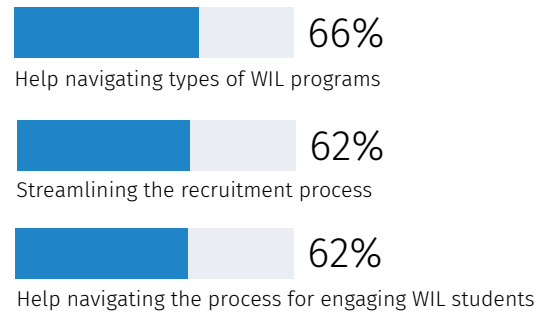
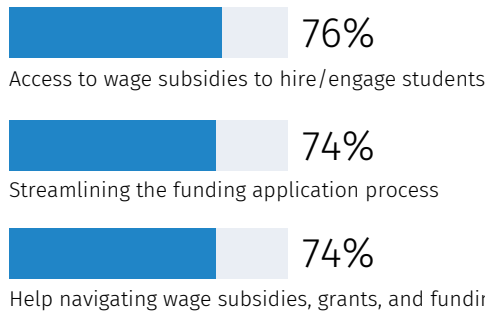
Work approaches during and post-pandemic



Many workplaces pivoted to remote and hybrid work during the pandemic, however 48% of survey respondents indicated they plan to have WIL students work in person post-pandemic.

Employers seek resources to help engage WIL students

Post-secondary institutions and ACE-WIL BC/Yukon provide supports to workplaces looking to engage WIL students



Demand for WIL types varies

At or above 100% of usual WIL hiring for the next 6 to 12 months:

Applied research project, Apprenticeship, Co-operative Education, Internship, Work Experience

Less than 100% of usual WIL hiring for the next 6 to 12 months:

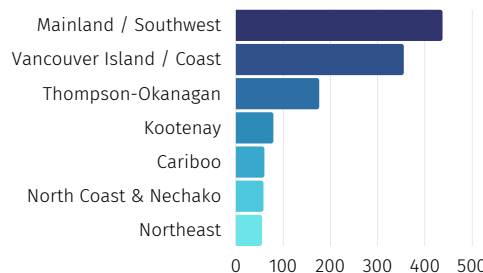
Entrepreneurship, Field Placement, Service Learning, Mandatory Professional Practicum/Clinical Placement

Survey Respondents

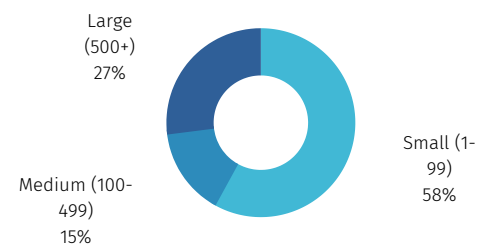
853

employers and community partners responded to the Spring 2021 survey.

Respondents by BC region



Respondents by organization size



Learn more

For key survey results and the full report, visit the ACE-WIL Resource Hub. The BC WIL Council is an independent council of the Association for Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning BC/Yukon (ACE-WIL) and is comprised of one member from each public, post-secondary institution in BC. Funding for this project was provided by the BC Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training's Co-op and Work Integrated Learning Initiative.