

# Co-operation makes it happen: Co-operative education and third-party degree delivery partnerships

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- Federation University Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters where our campuses, centres and field stations are located and we pay our respects to Elders past and present. We extend this respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and First Nations Peoples.
- The Aboriginal Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters where our campuses, centres and field stations are located include:

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Wimmera

Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa,  
Jadawadjali, Wergaia, Jupagulk

Ballarat

Wadawurrung

Berwick

Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri

Gippsland

Gunai Kurnai

Nanya Station

Mutthi Mutthi and Barkindji

# No-one Says it Better than Sesame Street



## **The Federation University International Student Promise**

Federation University provides a co-operative learning experience which is unique in Australia. Our courses have the opportunity for 60 days of paid placement embedded within them. They are co-designed, co-developed and co-delivered with industry to ensure students get an authentic and seamless industry experience which provides critical skills and knowledge, industry connections and prepares them for success in their chosen field.

# Federation Co-op is different to your usual university degree.

•**Work and world ready TAFE and University graduates.** We prepare our students through mandatory career development units, so they are ready to enter the workforce during their co-operative placements, and transferable World Ready Skills, so they are workforce ready when they graduate, regardless of their background before joining Federation University or TAFE.

•**Real experience in your chosen profession.** Every Co-op student completes a minimum of 60 days' paid placement relevant to their course - contributing directly to course credits - either full time over one semester, part time over an extended period or in blocks embedded into your subjects. Co-op offers flexibility to suit our students' commitments and course.

•**Co-design, co-develop and co-delivered with industry.** We work with employers, industry, students and alumni to co-design, co-develop and co-deliver a comprehensive set of structured, assessed Co-operative Experiential Learning activities. In our Masters by Research and PhD programs we engage students with real world research projects which are co-designed, co-supervised and in some cases co-funded by industry.

•**Connecting via Co-op.** We're exploring technology options to connect Co-op students, employers, industry partners and Federation staff to support cross communication and engagement.

•**A Co-op placement model for TAFE students is under development** for students who do not do an apprenticeship, traineeship or mandated placements as part of their course.

# The Definition

- Co-op typically requires a minimum of one semester in a given course or 12 weeks or 60 days at 7.5hrs/day or similar options representing this placement load of our Co-operative Experiential Learning ('Co-op') paid placement which is credited to the award.
- Co-op paid placements can be undertaken as a block equivalent to four units and other options will depend on employers and students.
- To meet transcript requirements, Co-op paid placements will be attached to units of study. Where required, 2x 30 credit point units for the work placement units will be developed for block (semester long) placements. This also typically allows for 15cp units for those who are taking the CEL component over an entire year (e.g., 1 or 2 days per week), or multiple options to reach the minimum threshold.
- In addition, 2 compulsory Co-operative Experiential Learning (CEL) unit (each 15cps) will be required for all students. The learning objectives for these compulsory unit will be mapped for those courses that have external accreditation requirements. Exemptions may be requested.
- All Co-op placements and units will require joint assessment, i.e., employer and academic as is the case in many courses already, e.g., engineering or IT projects. The employer component of this joint assessment may vary in terms of evaluation mode.

# How will this work with the partner model?

- Changes to course structures
- Rolled out progressively
- Management of work placements
  - Sourcing
  - Agreements (Industry partner, student)
  - Monitoring and assessing

# What will we need to do?

- Stay Calm
- Co-operate
- Communicate
- Engage with industry partners
- Be open to different ways of thinking about Higher Education and employment

# When will it all happen?

Year	Activity
2024	Rollout of new curriculum: Bachelor of IT Bachelor of IT (Prof Practice) Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Bachelor of Business Bachelor of Science
	Soft launch of Paid Placement for on-campus students
2025	Bachelor of Education Studies Bachelor of Sport, Physical and Outdoor Ed Bachelor of Criminology Bachelor of Arts Master of Health Master of Public Health Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science Bachelor of Psychological Science Bachelor of Environmental and Conservation Science Bachelor of Veterinary and Wildlife Science
	Commencement of some compulsory paid placement for 2024 cohort
2026	Everything Else

# Implications for students

- Better opportunity for industry experience and employment outcomes in field of study
- Enhanced employability
- New Institutional Identity
- Work rights are unaffected

# Discussion?

# Here comes the earworm again...

