



Charles Sturt  
University

Justice Studies

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Work-integrated learning

Faculty of Business, Justice & Behavioural Sciences  
Charles Sturt University

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# 1. What if I can't find an answer here?

Further details can be found in the [Student Guidebook](#)... If you have any concerns, please [contact us](#).

## 2. What is workplace learning?

Workplace Learning (WPL) involves students undertaking placement with a host organisation for purpose of linking theoretical learning with its application in the workplace. This enables students to extend professional knowledge, enhance employability skills, and reflect and evaluate their own work practices. WPL provides industry with experienced work-ready graduates.

The [WPL](#) team manages placement processes for the WPL subjects. Students are allocated a Workplace Learning Officer (WPLO) at commencement of the subject to assist with administrative matters.

## 3. Workplace learning subjects

### 3.1. Are the WPL subjects compulsory?

**Yes.** Bachelor of Criminal Justice students undertake one compulsory WPL subject as outlined (refer [section](#)).

### 3.2. Do I have to go on placement?

**Yes.** Placement is a compulsory component of JST321. Students currently in the workforce and/or with extensive experience are still required to complete placement, which can be undertaken in their current workplace, although type of activities must differ from those in day-to-day duties of substantive position.

Information regarding WPL stream types is outlined below (refer [section](#)).

### 3.3. When should I start placement?

Ideally, placement should commence after the first four weeks of session.

### 3.4. Can I do placement overseas?

**Yes.** Insurance for overseas placement does not include travel or personal loss and students should arrange appropriate cover. The university's insurance certificate of currency for overseas placement that outlines the types of insurance coverage can be obtained from the Division of Finance website (refer [resources](#)).

Students **may** be eligible for various university and/or government funding towards placement. Students undertaking an overseas placement are encouraged to register with CSU Global (refer [resources](#)) in advance of associated travel arrangements to avail themselves of all possible assistance and opportunities.

## 4. When is the subject available?

### BACHELOR OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

JST321 is a compulsory subject in the Bachelor of Criminal Justice and is available as follows:

SUBJECT	HOURS	SEQUENCE	AVAILABILITY
JST321 - Justice Studies Workplace Learning	70	Year 3	Session 2

## 5. Finding a placement

### 5.1. How do I find a placement?

**Students are responsible for sourcing their own placement.** The [WPL](#) team recommends sourcing potential opportunities before session begins and you should utilise personal networks to secure placement.

Refer to JST321 Interact2 site for the organisations directory which will be uploaded to the resources section. You are not limited to those listed however the directory can provide a starting point.

The [WPL](#) team can provide students with an introductory letter for presenting to potential host organisations, please contact the team for assistance.

Once you have secured a host organisation, confirm the following questions with the supervisor:

- Will I need a Working with Children check?
- Will I need an Australian Federal Police check?
- Will I need any types of vaccinations and if so, what are they?

If your host organisation does require any of the above or other checks, you should commence the application process immediately to ensure the start date is not deferred by any pending outcomes.

## 5.2. What is the deadline for finding placement?

Placement should be organised by third week of session, see the subject outline for exact due date.

If placement has not been organised by the [Placement Application](#) due date, it is important to request a submission extension from the [WPL](#) team.

*The WPL team strongly encourages students to find a placement before session begins. Placements not confirmed by census date will incur the HECS debt.*

## 5.3. What if I can't find a placement?

Students experiencing difficulty securing placement are encouraged to:

- Refer to Interact2 for the organisations directory.
- Contact your lecturer who may be able to assist you identifying a suitable host organisation to approach.
- Contact the [WPL](#) team for advice, suitable host organisations and letters of introduction.
- Students still unable to source placement should consider withdrawing before HECS census to avoid incurring a debt (refer to [Principal Dates on the Student Portal](#) for annual date) and re-enrol in a future session to enable sufficient time to source placement. This option should be a last resort as it will potentially delay your ability to graduate.

## 5.4. Do I organise my placement in block of hours, days or weeks?

WPL subjects are very flexible in terms of how placement is undertaken. Placement hours are agreed upon by the student and host organisation, taking into account the needs of both parties. Placement can be undertaken as a block, XXX hours per day/week, XXX days per week, or any other agreed upon arrangement until the hours have been completed.

## 5.5. Can I split my placement across organisations?

**Yes.** Students need to contact the [WPL](#) team to discuss proposed split placement arrangements. A new set of forms is required for each placement.

# 6. Examples of suitable activities

## 6.1. What activities do I need to do on placement?

It is important to be descriptive when outlining suitable placement activities. For example, rather than listing 'prepare client files' it would be more appropriate to write 'prepare client files for the Court Registrar'. Students must demonstrate activities undertaken equate to specified hours required to complete placement for the subject enrolled (refer [section](#)).

The [Placement Application](#) will be returned to students if the subject convenor or [WPLO](#) deems information provided is insufficient, not descriptive enough or does not equate to the specified hours (refer [section](#)).

Suitable activities might include (but not limited to):

### BACHELOR OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE - JST321

Students must undertake criminal or social justice-related activities for the duration of placement.

- Data Analysis
- Customer service
- Case Reporting
- Shadowing mentors
- Preparing case study reviews
- Creating and developing client files
- Preparing briefing reports
- Undertaking research and review of funding applications
- Client liaison meetings
- Conducting research
- Meetings:  
Attendance/agendas/minutes/actions
- Reviewing systems, procedures & manuals
- Draft letters
- Coordinating youth group activities
- Projects: e.g. Policy Review
- Event planning, management & promotion
- Preparing promotional collateral
- Reviewing/updating websites
- Social Media posts
- Participate in training
- Prepare contracts
- Staff records management
- Write/review policies

*“The subject exceeded my expectations and allowed me to gain a whole new perspective of the criminal justice system. The staff at my placement provider were extremely welcoming, informative, motivational and inspiring, providing me with an extremely diverse range of experience and knowledge of the criminal justice system.”*

**JST321 student**

## 6.2. What activities are not suitable for placement?

Examples of activities **not** suitable for a justice studies placement (but not limited to) include:

- Fielding phone calls
- Filing / scanning
- Opening & sorting mail
- Organising staff Christmas party
- Stocktaking
- Word processing
- Cleaning
- Making tea / coffee
- Pricing stock
- Taking bookings
- Taking messages
- Waiting on tables
- Checkout operator
- Catering
- Moving offices
- Packing envelopes or parcels
- Packing Shelves
- Reception duties
- Shopping for supplies
- Staff rosters

## 6.3. What types of organisations are suitable for placement?

### GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

- NSW Office of the Department of Public Prosecution (DPP)
- Commonwealth Immigration and Border Protection
- NSW Community Corrections
- NSW Local Courts
- NSW Legal Aid
- Aboriginal Legal Service
- Family and Community Services
- NSW Juvenile Justice
- Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC)

### NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

- Young Mob (Indigenous Not-for-Profit Group Bathurst)
- Y-Foundations
- Salvation Army

# 7. While I'm on placement...

## 7.1. Does my travel and lunch count towards my hours?

Time spent travelling to and from the host organisation along with any meal breaks do not count toward required placement hours.

## 7.2. What about flexitime or recreational leave?

Flexitime or recreational leave days do not count toward placement hours.

## 7.3. What if I need time off?

Sick, bereavement, carers or any other kind of leave day do not count toward placement hours.

## 7.4. What if I can't finish placement before the end of session?

Students can still finalise remaining hours after the end of session. If this occurs, the [WPLO](#) will advise you to apply for a Work Placement Grade Pending (GP) to allow a substantive grade to be awarded.

# 8. Streams

## 8.1. How do I know what stream I will be in?

Students can undertake placement in one of two streams. The streams are as follows:

- Stream 1:** Placement with new host organisation (where business is not the current employer).  
*This stream typically appeals to younger and less experienced students who are studying full-time with part-time jobs. It encourages students to find placements in organisations or fields that they aspire to work for upon graduation. However, mature-aged, full-time employed students are fully supported to choose Stream 1 if an experience in another organisation is desirable or preferred.*
- Stream 2:** Placement with existing employer (where business is the current employer).  
*This stream typically appeals to more mature-aged and experienced students who are studying part-time with full-time jobs. It encourages students to find placements which reflect professional development within their current employment either as a secondment, higher duties or project based placement.*

## 8.2. What if I can't do placement?

Withdraw from subject before HECS census and consider re-enrolling in a future session to enable sufficient time to complete it.

# 9. The process

## 9.1. What forms do I need to submit for the WPL subjects?

Once enrolled in a WPL subject, students are required to:

- Find a placement (refer [section](#)).
- Submit [Placement Application](#) **before** placement commences.
- Receive [Placement Application](#) approval, returned from the [WPL](#) team **before** placement commences.
- Submit [Student Placement Agreement](#) (signed by student and supervisor at the host organisation), **before** placement commences.
- Receive [Student Placement Agreement](#) approval, returned from the [WPL](#) team **before** placement commences.
- Submit signed [Log Book](#) within 14 days following conclusion of placement.
- Submit signed [Student Review](#) within 14 days following conclusion of placement.
- Supervisor to submit [Placement Evaluation](#) within 14 days following conclusion of placement.

Submit all forms to the [Workplace Learning](#) team.

# 10. Recognition of prior learning

## 10.1. I am currently employed - can I get credit for the WPL subjects?

**No.** Credit is not available to students for the WPL subjects based on previous experience and/or employment. Students are expected to undertake placement with either their current employer or a new host organisation.

Students with extensive work experience are encouraged to undertake higher duties, a role within another department or a specific project however activities must differ from tasks completed in the day-to-day position.

## 11. Early placement / late placement

### 11.1. Can I start my placement early?

There are some difficulties associated with commencing placement early, such as:

- Availability of subject outline materials and other resources.
- Pre-placement forms require approval before placement commences.
- Learning outcomes/topics in the WPL subjects will not have been covered to assist students.

Students wishing to apply for early placement commencement need to contact the [WPL](#) team and provide details outlining the request.

### 11.2. What if my placement finishes after the end of session?

It is preferred that students complete placement before the end of session to avoid delays receiving a final grade. Students facing possible delays in meeting the completion date must contact the [WPL](#) team.

## 12. Responsibilities

### 12.1. What are my responsibilities on placement?

Students responsibilities on placement include (but are not limited to) the following:

- attend workplace as per the agreement
- adhere to workplace dress code
- not reveal any confidential information about individuals, or commercial and organisational matters
- to behave in a professional manner as representatives of the university
- report critical incidents (refer [Student Guidebook](#))
- refer [Student Guidebook](#) in relation to social media use.

### 12.2. What if I'm absent?

Absences, due to illness of student or immediate family member, must be communicated to the supervisor.

### 12.3. What are my hosts/supervisor responsibilities?

Host organisations/supervisors responsibilities on placement include (but are not limited to) the following:

- a safe working environment
- a variety of placement activities
- adequate and professional supervision
- regular feedback regarding performance
- approve the [Log Book](#)
- complete the [Placement Evaluation](#).

## 13. Insurance

### 13.1. Am I covered by Charles Sturt insurance on placement?

**Yes.**

**The university provides insurance cover for its placement students** in the [Student Placement Agreement](#), a tripartite legal contract and outlines the Terms and Conditions. Further details on Charles Sturt insurance policies can be obtained from the Division of Finance website (refer [resources](#)).



Students undertaking placement outside Australia, please note insurance does not include travel or personal loss, and students should take additional cover for this.

### 13.2. Is my host covered by Charles Sturt insurance on placement?

**No.** Host insurance coverage is the responsibility of the organisation. Further details on Charles Sturt insurance can be obtained from the Division of Finance website (refer [resources](#)).

### 13.3. What if I have an accident on placement?

If the accident is serious, appropriate response units must be called on 000 (ambulance, fire, police).

Students must report placement accidents or misadventures to the [WPL](#) team.

## 14. Financial assistance

### 14.1. Is there any financial assistance available?

Students can apply for financial assistance to assist with associated placement costs. For eligibility and further information, refer to the Charles Sturt Professional Placement Equity Grant and other scholarship opportunities websites (refer [resources](#)).

## 15. Payment

### 15.1. Will I be paid for my placement?

STREAM 1

**No.**

Students are not entitled to any placement remuneration and should not request payment. The *Fair Work Act 2009*, classifies any payment as an 'employment relationship' which nullifies 'vocational placement'. The difference has serious legal host implications in regards to insurance and compliance with relevant Awards.

STREAM 2

**Yes.**

Normally, the host organisation may continue to pay students undertaking placement in their usual workplace where employment conditions remain unchanged.

### 15.2. What if my employer offers to pay me for the placement?

Refer to [section](#) above.

## 16. Workplace learning contacts

### 16.1. Who should I contact if I have any questions?

Enquiries should be directed by email. Include name, student number and relevant subject code in the subject line to assist allocating your enquiry to the appropriate team member:

[justice-wpl@csu.edu.au](mailto:justice-wpl@csu.edu.au)

## 16.2. Professional team

The WPL professional team can be contacted as follows:

CAMPUS	NAME	POSITION	DETAILS
Wagga Wagga	Kirrily Welsh	Manager (Acting)	Phone: 02 6933 2911 Email: <a href="mailto:justice-wpl@csu.edu.au">justice-wpl@csu.edu.au</a>
Wagga Wagga	vacant	Senior Workplace Learning Officer	Phone: Email: <a href="mailto:justice-wpl@csu.edu.au">justice-wpl@csu.edu.au</a>
Wagga Wagga	Judy Wong*	Workplace Learning Officer	Phone: 02 6933 2698 Email: <a href="mailto:justice-wpl@csu.edu.au">justice-wpl@csu.edu.au</a>

*\*first contact point*

## 16.3. Academic team

The WPL academic team can be contacted as follows:

CAMPUS/MODE	NAME	POSITION	DETAILS
	vacant	Workplace Learning Coordinator	Phone: Email: <a href="mailto:justice-wpl@csu.edu.au">justice-wpl@csu.edu.au</a>
Bathurst Online	Brett Roeder	Subject Convenor & Lecturer	Phone: 02 6582 9300 Email: <a href="mailto:broeder@csu.edu.au">broeder@csu.edu.au</a>

# 17. Forms

## 17.1. Where can I access the forms?

Forms are available from the WPL website (refer [resources](#)).

## 17.2. When are forms due?

Refer to the subject outline for specific dates.

## 17.3. What applications are required to complete the forms?

To submit forms electronically, the current version of Adobe Acrobat Reader will be required (refer [resources](#)).

# 18. Resources

DESCRIPTION
<a href="#">Adobe: Acrobat Reader - Desktop Version</a>
<a href="#">Adobe: Acrobat Reader - Mobile Version</a>
<a href="#">Charles Sturt: Career Development Service</a>
<a href="#">Charles Sturt: CSU Global</a>
<a href="#">Charles Sturt: Disability Services</a>
<a href="#">Charles Sturt: Division of Finance - Insurance Certificate (Domestic)</a>
<a href="#">Charles Sturt: Division of Finance - Insurance Certificate (International)</a>
<a href="#">Charles Sturt: Professional Placement Equity Grant</a>
<a href="#">Charles Sturt: Scholarship Opportunities</a>
<a href="#">Charles Sturt: Student Charter</a>
<a href="#">Charles Sturt: Student Misconduct Rule 2020</a>
<a href="#">Charles Sturt: Student Portal</a>
<a href="#">Form: Placement Application</a> <i>(available only to students through secure login)</i>
<a href="#">Form: Student Placement Agreement (Stream 1)</a>
<a href="#">Form: Student Placement Agreement (Stream 2)</a>
<a href="#">Form: Log Book</a>
<a href="#">Form: Student Review</a>
<a href="#">Form: Placement Evaluation</a>
<a href="#">WPL: Frequently Asked Questions (Student)</a>
<a href="#">WPL: Guidebook (Student)</a>
<a href="#">WPL: Guidebook (Host)</a> <i>(available soon)</i>
<a href="#">WPL: Placement Application Submission Guide</a>
<a href="#">WPL: Student Information</a>

# 19. Glossary

Common terminology and acronyms at Charles Sturt that may be referred to in this document:

TERMINOLOGY & ACRONYMS	DESCRIPTION
Brightspace	Online learning management system used to communicate with students regarding subject related information.
Campus	Location responsible for control of courses and subjects.
Charles Sturt	Charles Sturt University.
Course	An approved sequence of subjects leading to an award. For example, Bachelor of Criminal Justice.
Enrolment	Process whereby a student is allocated a place in one or more subjects each session. It includes payment of appropriate fees, completion of required documents and signing of an agreement to abide by the By-law, regulations and rules of the university.
GP	Grade Pending.
HECS	Higher Education Contribution Scheme.
HECS census	Date in academic calendar that students must withdraw subject from enrolment so not to incur a fee.
Host Organisation	Organisation where student will undertake placement.
I	Internal: Mode of study. Students attend classes on campus during session at the university.
O	Online: Mode of study. Students study off campus using university study materials and are not required to attend regular lectures, tutorials, seminars, laboratory or practical classes however residential schools or other specific attendance may be required.
RPL	Recognition of Prior Learning (also known as Credit).
Session	Prescribed teaching and assessment period. Sessions in an academic year include Session 1, 2 and 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20XX<sup>30</sup>: Session 1 (February-June)</li> <li>• 20XX<sup>60</sup>: Session 2 (July-October)</li> <li>• 20XX<sup>90</sup>: Session 3 (November-February)</li> </ul>
SO	Subject Outline.
Subject Convenor	Academic staff member responsible for overall content and structure of subject.
Subject Lecturer	Academic staff member responsible for delivering subject to a cohort of students.
Supervisor	Person at host organisation responsible for student during placement.
WPL	Workplace Learning.
WPLO	Workplace Learning Officer.
WPLT	Workplace Learning team.