

# SBL3800 Professional Practice – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



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## 1. What is SBL3800 Professional Practice?

SBL3800 Professional Practice is a 15-credit point unit requiring 80 hours of professional practice in a work environment. Professional practice is where students engage with an external partner (e.g., member of the community, industry, or local government) in a professional setting. Examples are work placement or internship, work-based competition or hackathon, involvement in an innovation hub or incubator, or participation in a work-based mentoring program.

SBL3800 has specific prerequisites which must be completed prior to enrolment.

## 2. When is SBL3800 offered?

SBL3800 is offered as a full-year unit which spans across two academic semesters. This can be:

- Full Year (F) unit: Feb to November (results available in December with semester 2 results)
- Split Year (SY) unit: July to May (results available in July with semester 1 results)

## 3. What happens if I am graduating mid-year in 2026?

In 2026 only, special arrangements can be made for students that must complete the unit in semester one to meet their graduation requirements. If you are one of these students (i.e., still on target to graduate after semester 1, 2026), please liaise with Student Hub at the time of enrolling in your 2026 units (i.e., when SIMO opens) and they will assist you in provisionally enrolling into the single semester offering, rather than the full year one.

## 4. Where can I find more information about SBL3800?

Read about [SBL3800](#) in the Student Handbook or contact the Student Hub for personalised advice.

## 5. For international students, do the 80-hours of professional practice count towards my 48-hour fortnightly work cap?

When SBL3800 is *core* in your course structure, the 80 hours will *not count* towards your fortnightly work cap. If SBL3800 is an *elective* unit in your course structure, the 80 hours *will count* towards your fortnightly work cap. If you are unsure if the unit is core or elective in your course, please check in the [student handbook](#) or ask Student Hub.

## 6. Can I take SBL3800 and other WIL units in my course?

Generally, no. Students choose their WIL pathway during their first and second year. They can choose to apply for the Professional Practice Major (if available in their course), OR the Internship Minor (FBL3400/FBL3500) OR SBL3800 Professional Practice. They cannot take a combination of these, it is one or the other.

## 7. Why is SBL3800 an on-campus unit, does that mean I need to come onto campus?

All SBL internship and placement units are classed as on-campus. This is because of their immersed nature, with students being in a work setting (recognising that some work settings are virtual or hybrid nowadays). SBL3800 students do not need to attend any sessions on campus, the academic component of the unit is online with any meetings/sessions conducted via Teams.

## Questions relating to enrolment

### 1. What are the prerequisites for enrolment into SBL3800?

To be eligible for enrolment, you must:

- Have completed 180 credit points in your course before starting the unit.
- Have completed the career development learning content relevant to your course:
  - W23, W28, W75, W27, W57: *SBL2800 Professional Engagement and Planning*
  - Y99: *CMM2605 Principles of Inclusive Communication*
  - Y53, T90, W31: *SPM2104 Managing Recreation Services and Facilities*
  - V72, K93, W26, W83, K30: *Career Development Learning for Work-based WIL Canvas module*
- Have completed the *SBL3800 Preparation for Professional Practice* Canvas module, including agreement to comply with appropriate conduct during professional practice.
- Have secured a suitable professional practice opportunity.

Prerequisites must be completed before the census date of your chosen teaching period (F or SY).

### 2. How do I enrol in SBL3800?

You can self-enrol via SIMO:

- If you have met the minimum credit point requirement and have space in your course, you'll be placed on a waitlist and given access to the SBL3800 Professional Practice SharePoint portal. The SharePoint portal will be available from November 2025.
- If ineligible (credit points/course planner issue), SIMO will decline enrolment and refer you to the Student Hub.

### 3. What happens after I'm waitlisted and given access to the SBL3800 SharePoint portal?

The SBL3800 SharePoint Portal is where you complete your prerequisites. Here, you will:

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Business  
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- Confirm completion of your Career Development Learning in your course (see note above)
- Complete and pass the *SBL3800 Preparation for Professional Practice* Canvas module (including agreement to comply with appropriate conduct during professional practice.)
- Submit your secured professional practice opportunity for a suitability check (refer to point 2 below for guidance on suitability)

Prerequisites must be completed before the census date of your chosen teaching period (F or SY).

## 4. What happens when I complete all the prerequisites for enrolment into SBL3800?

When the unit prerequisites are completed prior to the census date for your chosen teaching period, you will transition from the waitlist (provisional enrolment) to enrolment. Once enrolled, you will be given access to the SBL3800 Professional Practice Canvas course site and can commence the unit.

## 5. What if I fail a unit and cannot meet the 180-credit point requirement after being waitlisted?

You will be removed from the waitlist / SBL3800 SharePoint portal and referred to the Student Hub.

## 6. What if I can't enrol through SIMO?

If SIMO comes back with an invalid enrolment error, this means you are not eligible to be waitlisted and must contact Student Hub. They will:

- Check your course structure and 180CP requirement
- If eligible, add you to the waitlist manually
- If ineligible, advise when you can try again.

## 7. Who should I contact if I have questions or am unsure about my eligibility?

Please contact the Student Hub for any questions related to your enrolment or eligibility status.

## Questions related to the 80-hours of professional practice

### 1. Do I have to source my own professional practice opportunity?

All students completing SBL3800 are required to source their own professional practice opportunity. The following is in place to support this:

- Refreshment of undergraduate curriculum to include career development learning to help source an opportunity. This may be through units embedded into your course structure or through the *Career Development Learning for Work-based WIL* Canvas module.

# SBL3800 Professional Practice – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- Flexible unit design to allow completion of the 80-hours to suit the student and partner (rather than being restricted to a single semester).
- Hours can be through an internship or other arrangement where a student is immersed in a learning experience with their partner (e.g., competition, hackathon, incubator/entrepreneurial experience, mentoring program, volunteering).
- Professional networking activities through the students' major and/or [careers and employability team](#) to meet potential partners.
- Advertised professional practice opportunities will be available on the SBL3800 SharePoint portal. These will be sourced by the SBL WIL team and regularly updated through the year.

## 2. How do I know if the opportunity that I source is suitable?

Please refer to these [guidelines](#) on what is a suitable opportunity.

## 3. Does the professional practice opportunity have to be a work placement or an internship?

No. Professional Practice is where you are in an immersed environment with an external partner. The partner may be, for example, a member of the community, industry or local government. You could be, for example, engaging in a work-based competition, hackathon, incubator or mentorship experience with them, not an internship. Please check the [suitability requirements](#) and if you are still unsure, contact the SBL WIL team on [businessWIL@ecu.edu.au](mailto:businessWIL@ecu.edu.au) for clarification.

## 4. Can my professional practice be virtual?

We recognise that work nowadays is often undertaken remotely and/or virtually. While you can complete your professional practice hours that way, we strongly recommend that you spend at least half your hours immersed in a work setting where you can physically interact with others and get a deeper understanding of professional practice and work culture.

## 5. What if I cannot source my own professional practice opportunity?

The SBL WIL team will be on hand to assist students who have actively tried to source an opportunity and still require support. They can be contacted on [businessWIL@ecu.edu.au](mailto:businessWIL@ecu.edu.au)

## 6. Can I count hours towards the 80 hours of professional practice before I enrol in the unit?

No. You can only count hours of professional practice once you are fully enrolled in SBL3800. Please also note that prior learning or work experience will not be considered for this unit.

## 7. Does my professional practice need to be aligned to my major(s)?

Your professional practice hours must be related to your broad degree (e.g., Marketing for Y99 students, commerce for W23 students). The hours do not necessarily need to align directly with your chosen major(s) although some students would prefer this.

## 8. How do I structure my 80-hours of professional practice and when can I start?

The professional practice hours are designed to be flexible. You can complete them in a way that suits you, and your external partner. That could be in a block (we recommend a minimum of four-weeks to allow for the completion of your assessments) or one day per week spread over time. Feedback from previous WIL students, and their industry hosts, shows that completing the hours regularly (i.e., a couple of days per week) is optimal.

## 9. Can I use my current employment as my professional practice opportunity?

You may be able to nominate your current employer for your professional practice, provided that:

- They meet the [suitability requirements](#)
- They provide tasks that ideally extend beyond your regular responsibilities, offering new learning aligned with your course/professional goals. (e.g., taking on a specific project, joining a different team, or working on an initiative that requires you to apply your disciplinary knowledge in a new way).

## 10. What if my industry partner needs me to organise a clearance/check for my professional practice with them (e.g., police clearance or working with children check)?

You are responsible for organising and paying for any checks or clearances that your industry partner requires. Please allow sufficient time for this and do not commence your professional practice before the clearance/checks are in place.