

Project Summary for IAL Website

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Project Title:	Socio-materials that Matter for Traversing the Boundaries of School and Work
Project Number:	GA18-06
Year of Approval:	2019
Funding Source:	WDARF
Objectives and intended outcomes of the project:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delineate the social and material affordances that matter for effective internship learning • Explore changing identities of undergraduate students as they cross between boundaries of institutions and the workplace • Design a tool-kit for preparing young adults for learning at the workplace • Provide recommendations on strengthening existing support for continuous learning
Project Team	
Principal Investigator:	Dr Chue Shien
Summary of Project (up to 300 words)	
<p>At present, there is a lack of research that simultaneously looks into the roles of the undergraduate intern, the educational institution, and the industry partner during the internship process. There is a need to investigate the process of learning through practice within formalised internships as undergraduates transit between school and work, and experience different forms of teaching and learning.</p> <p>In this research, we explore professional learning of undergraduate interns from a socio-material perspective as they traverse the boundaries from school to work and unpacks the entanglements of learning at the workplace. To understand what interns are experiencing at the workplace, we interviewed more than 100 local undergraduates from engineering, accountancy, marketing, media production, advertising, as well as public relations agencies and other communications related firms. Additionally, we conducted 66 in-depth interviews with workplace supervisors and faculty members to understand more clearly how internship learning is enabled and supported.</p> <p>Data analysis is currently ongoing and we hope to soon offer a perspective on how institutions and young adult learners should begin to respond and shape the changing world of work.</p>	