

Awards for outstanding achievement in the Workplace Learning Course – 2011

*Exhibitions
Certificates of distinction*

Selection report for Submission to the Exhibitions and Awards Committee

Introduction

The Curriculum Council annually awards outstanding achievement in the Workplace Learning course.

The awards recognise individual excellence at the senior secondary level of schooling. This report summarises the statistics and selection panel report for the 2011 awards and provides valuable advice and feedback from selection panels to interested stakeholders.

General criteria for eligibility for exhibitions and awards

To achieve a Beazley Medal: WACE, a Beazley Medal: VET, a general exhibition, a general exhibition (ATSI), a general exhibition (ESL/ESD), a course exhibition, a VET exhibition, a workplace learning exhibition, a certificate of distinction and a certificate of excellence, a student must:

- be an Australian citizen or a permanent resident of Australia;
- be enrolled as a full-time student in a registered secondary school;
- not have previously completed the course external assessment used in the determination of the award; and
- have satisfied the requirements for a WACE at the time of the determination of the awards.

Special WPL awards and special certificates of distinction may be awarded to students who do not meet the general eligibility criteria.

Workplace learning exhibition

A Workplace learning exhibition may be awarded to the eligible student who is the top student of those awarded a certificate of distinction (WPL).

Certificates of distinction (WPL)

Certificates of distinction may be awarded to eligible students who complete two units of the Workplace Learning course in their final year. The number of certificates that could be awarded will be:

- 0.5 per cent of the number of Year 12 students enrolled in a pair of Workplace Learning units at the end of semester 1, or
- A maximum of two (whichever is the higher).

Eligibility criteria

Students eligible for this award will, in their final year:

- Start and complete a minimum of two units of the Workplace Learning course
- Achieve an A grade in both units
- Complete the units by the scheduled Curriculum Council interview date.

Selection process

Selection panels identify award winners and make a recommendation to the awards and exhibitions committee of the Curriculum Council. Selection panels are made up of representatives from each school system/sector. Nomination forms and other documentation submitted by students (as stated in the information sheet) are used to short list and invite selected students to an interview. The interview will allow the students to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and application to their workplace learning.

Selection for the awards of *Workplace Learning exhibition* and *certificate of distinction (WPL)* used the following process:

- Students were required to submit their nominations by 5.00pm on Monday 12 September 2011.
- Nominations were short listed by Friday 16 September 2011.
- Short listed students were contacted by mail during the second week of the October school holidays.
- Selection panels met with students during the week 24-27 October 2011.
- Award winners were advised via the Curriculum Council website and the media in January 2012.
- Awards were presented at the Curriculum Council awards ceremony on 8 February 2012.

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Workplace Learning Course

Number of nominations received: 14

Number short listed: 6

Number of Certificates of Distinction available: 11

Number of Certificates of Distinction awarded: 2

Exhibition awarded: 1

Curriculum Officer: Leanne Meldrum

1. Eligibility criteria used

A nominated student must in the final year they apply for a WACE:

- start and complete at least two units of the Workplace Learning course, and
- achieve an A grade in both units, and
- complete the units by the scheduled Curriculum Council interview date.

2. Process of selection

- At nomination students presented a portfolio containing a supporting student statement, workplace performance profile and validation documents for both units including workplace attendance record, employability skills sign-off, daily task schedules, student assessment outlines and completed and marked assessment tasks.
- The panel assessed the nominations and short listed students based upon the evidence submitted at the time of nomination.
- Short listed students were invited to attend an interview in person or via videoconference.
- Ten minutes prior to the interview, students were given a set of questions to assist them to prepare for the discussion with the panel.
- Prior to the commencement of the interview, all validation documents must be confirmed as completed.
- The purpose of the interview was to provide the student with an opportunity to elaborate on their knowledge, understanding and application of their learning to the workplace.

3. Reasons for not short listing nominated students (if appropriate)

Some candidates did not address the minimum criteria, were very weak when talking about the employability skills or did not address most the employability skills in the student summary.

4. Rating System

The panel used a profile sheet to rate nominees according to a ranking based on a numerical score and panel discussion.

For Publication

5. Panel feedback and recommendations to teachers

5.1 Feedback (strengths and challenges)

- Given that this was the first year of the WPL course awards, there was a smaller than expected response from schools.
- Short listed students had impressive log books and quality written tasks. In their student statements they had comprehensively responded to all three key questions and addressed most or all of the employability skills with specific examples to demonstrate their application, both within their work placements and in broader contexts.
- Students who did well in the interview were those who were able to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding by elaborating on the examples used in their student statement.
- All students interviewed were well presented and punctual, and brought all necessary validation documents.

5.2 Recommendations

- Students should be provided with opportunities to talk about what they have learned through their workplace learning experiences and how their skills and knowledge can be applied to other aspects of their lives.

6. Student Recommendations

The names of students recommended for awards were submitted to the exhibitions and awards committee.

7. If no awards were recommended, state the reasons why.

Not applicable