wblchampion

Introducing the WBL Champion QA Toolkit

A practical resource to support quality, consistency, and continuous improvement in WBL.

Your guide to quality-assured Work-Based Learning

WBL has become an essential pedagogical approach within HEIs, recognised for its ability to bridge academic knowledge with real-world professional practice.

By engaging students in authentic workplace experiences through internships, placements, apprenticeships and other forms of experiential learning, WBL plays a vital role in developing employability, practical competence and lifelong learning.

However, such experiences alone do not guarantee successful Work-Based Learning. Effective, equitable and impactful Work-Based Learning requires systematic quality assurance systems that guide programme design, implementation, assessment, and continuous improvement across entire sectors, host organisations and student cohorts.

That's why we've developed the **WBL Champion QA Toolkit**: a free, practical resource designed to help HEIs and industry mentors build and deliver high-quality Work-Based Learning programmes and experiences.

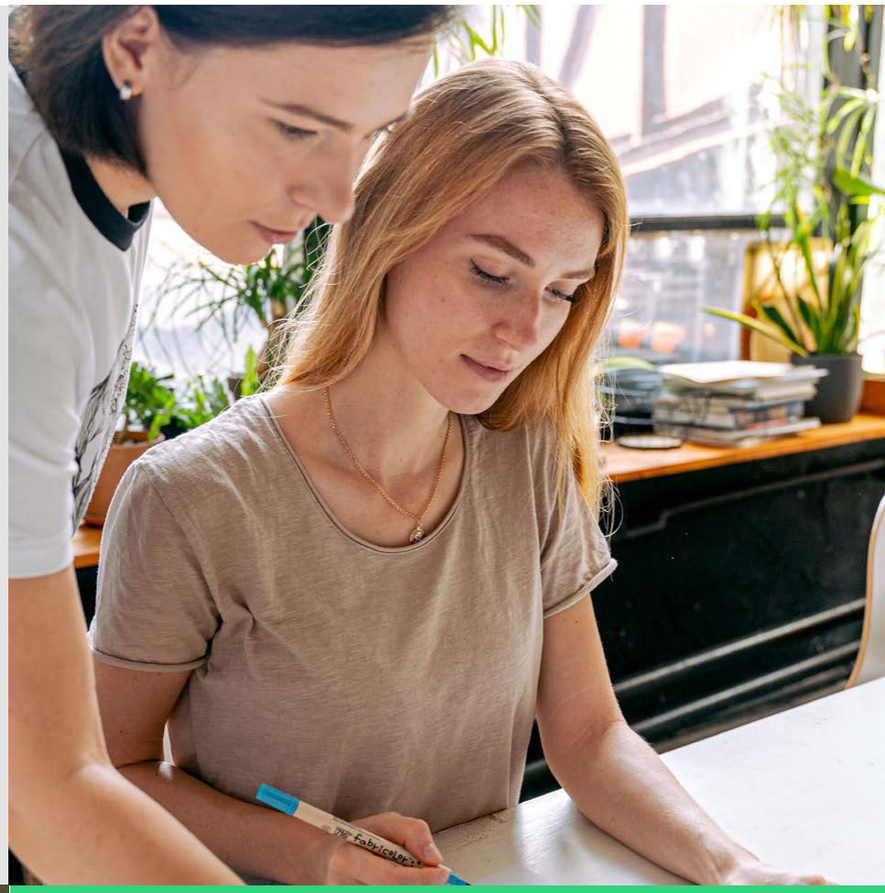
Discover More

About the QA Toolkit

Discover the practical resource helping higher education and industry deliver quality Work-Based Learning.

What is it?

The WBL Champion QA Toolkit is a comprehensive guide that brings together practical frameworks, guidelines, templates and quality assurance tools to support every stage of the Work-Based Learning journey. Rather than focusing solely on theory, it provides institutions with practical resources they can adapt and implement immediately.



Why was it developed?

As Work-Based Learning continues to expand across higher education, institutions need practical guidance to ensure programmes are delivered consistently and effectively. The WBL Champion QA Toolkit was developed to provide that guidance. By promoting a structured approach to planning, delivery, monitoring and evaluation, the toolkit helps organisations strengthen collaboration and ensure WBL remains responsive to the evolving needs of students, employers and the labour market.

Who is it for?

The WBL Champion QA Toolkit aims to provide accessible tools for HEI staff and industry mentors. Whether you're designing, coordinating, supporting or participating in a Work-Based Learning programme, the toolkit provides practical guidance to help ensure WBL is delivered consistently, effectively and in line with both academic and industry standards.

Why it matters

Education providers

The toolkit provides a practical framework for embedding quality throughout the Work-Based Learning lifecycle, helping institutions strengthen programme design, improve assessment, enhance collaboration with employers, and support continuous improvement.

Industry partners

Employers play a central role in successful Work-Based Learning. The toolkit helps organisations better understand their responsibilities, establish effective partnerships with HEIs, support workplace mentors, and create meaningful learning experiences that benefit everyone.

Students

The toolkit helps ensure students benefit from structured, meaningful and equitable Work-Based Learning experiences. By promoting clear learning outcomes, effective supervision and consistent quality standards, it supports students in developing the skills, confidence and workplace readiness needed to succeed in their future careers.

Governing bodies

QA gives governing bodies confidence that investment in WBL education is delivering consistent and measurable value through improved educational quality, stronger employability, and closer alignment with labour market needs, strengthing learner success, workforce readiness, industry engagement, and economic growth.

What's inside the toolkit?

The toolkit brings together a wide range of practical resources, including:

- Quality assurance principles for Work-Based Learning
- Adapted European quality frameworks, including EQAVET guidance
- Roles and responsibilities for both academia and industry
- Assessment frameworks for evaluating Work-Based Learning programmes

- Continuous improvement methodologies, including PDCA and Kaizen
- Self-assessment tools for higher education institutions and industry partners
- Good practice guidelines and an example Work-Based Learning implementation timeline
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) templates
- Self-assessment tools for higher education institutions and industry partners
- Student feedback questionnaires

Get the Toolkit

One global, unified QA perspective

The WBL Champion QA Toolkit has been developed through the combined expertise of a consortium of higher education and training organisations from Malta, Ireland, Italy and Portugal. Drawing on diverse institutional experience and European best practice, the toolkit reflects a shared commitment to improving the quality, consistency and impact of Work-Based Learning across higher education.

Driving excellence in Work-Based Learning

The integration of WBL into higher education is not just an add-on to the academic curriculum, but a transformative learning experience that requires active collaboration between academia and industry. By following the guidelines and best practices outlined in this toolkit, institutions can create meaningful, high-quality WBL programmes that prepare students for the complexities of the modern workforce, and ensure that they graduate with the skills and competencies needed to thrive.

wblchampion

Co-funded by the European Union

Follow us on social media for regular updates on course launch announcements, access opportunities, and ongoing WBL resources:

By following the WBL Champion project, you'll be the first to know when courses launch on the digital platform, and when additional resources are released. You'll also be part of a growing community of educators rethinking how we prepare students for real work.

WBL Champion Project partners: VITECO (Italy), KNIGHTS College (Malta), INOVA+ (Portugal), and Technological University Dublin (Ireland).

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the Erasmus+ National Agency – INDIRE. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them. Project No: 2024-1-IT02-KA220-HED-000245540.