



## **Using E-Learning as a Method to Conduct Work Integrated Learning for Law Students in South Africa**

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### **Abstract**

This paper is the result of an investigation into the usage of e-learning as an alternative to placement of students in practice or industry in order to complete the work integrated learning component required for completion of their qualifications. In South Africa tertiary institutions are burdened with the responsibility of placing students in industry or practice and difficulty is experienced at the Vaal University of Technology to place all the students and to ensure that the students in fact experience true work integrated learning. An alternative had to be found in order to ensure that law students that have completed their law qualification, enter the work place as fully functional and knowledgeable professionals with all the necessary skills to be fully competent. By distributing the work integrated learning component throughout the whole course and utilising e-learning, students do not have to be placed in practice or industry for months, but by participating in e-learning their submissions and simulations are assessed by practicing attorneys and advocates and moderated by the lecturer in control of work integrated learning, in order to ensure that the students adhere to all the requirements that industry or practice set for a Labour Law Practitioner or Legal Assistant. Every semester has a work integrated learning module relevant to that semester's and previous semesters' theoretical learning. The paper illustrates how work integrated learning as facilitated for Law of Evidence, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure Law, Human Rights Law, Legal Practice, English and Computer Skills is implemented at the Vaal University of Technology. The result is that industry or practice is brought to campus and more specifically to the students in stead of taking the students to industry or practice. This alternative method alleviates the burden of placement and also accommodation of students in industry or practice, whilst still ensuring skilled graduates.