Student Employability Centre
16 November 2018

THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

EAIT Faculty Snapshot: Student-Staff Partnership Projects

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this Report is to provide the Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology (EAIT) senior leadership team with a high-level overview of the EAIT Partnership Projects that have occurred from the period of May to November 2018, as part of the UQ Student-Staff Partnership (SSP) Project initiative.

Context

In 2017, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) approved Student Strategy funding for a large-scale implementation of Student-Staff Partnership Projects. Student-Staff Partnership Projects aim to create a cultural transformation at UQ where Students and Staff connect as equals, partners and co-collaborators on projects that seek to enhance the student experience at UQ. Further information on this initiative can be found here. Table 1 highlights the funding allocation model, as approved for Student Strategy Funding.

Year	No. of Student Partners	Allocated funding for grants
2018	350	$350,000
2019	600	$600,000
2020	800	$400,000

Table 1: Allocated Student Strategy Funding for Student Partner Grants

2018 University SSP Projects Update

The operationalisation of SSP Projects commenced in May 2018. Since this time, **338 Student Partners** have either completed projects, or are currently collaborating on projects with Staff Partners.

Approximately 27% of Student Partners are undertaking postgraduate studies, with 73% undertaking undergraduate studies. Approximately 28% are international students, and 72% are domestic students.
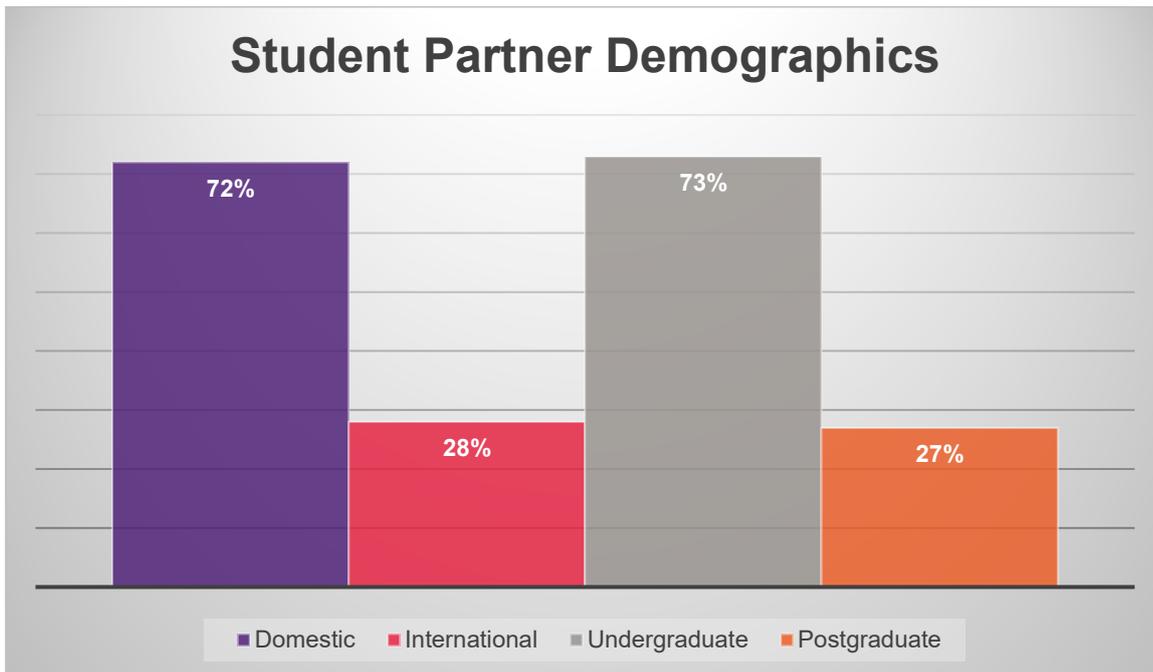
Student Partner Demographics

Figure 1: Student Partner Demographics

There are currently **111 projects** that have been funded through the Student-Staff Partnerships initiative. 72 of these projects are contextualised within the curriculum, and 39 are within the broader student experience space. Approximately **97 academic staff and 48 professional staff** have collaborated on projects. Some illustrative examples of projects include:

- Student Partners as Consultants, generating feedback and evaluating the course redesign prior to implementation (UQ2U project).
- Co-developing digital literacy modules and identifying areas in which these modules can be embedded within the curriculum.
- Co-developing and implementing a Student Engagement Strategy for Entrepreneurship at UQ.
- Co-developing a short online module to support students succeeding in blended courses (UQ2U).
- Establishing good practice, contextualised guidelines for Student Representatives at UQ.

2018 EAIT SSP Projects Update

In total, 2 partnership projects was based within EAIT from the period of May to November, 2018. Figure 2 provides a snapshot of the partnership projects according to Faculty / Unit.
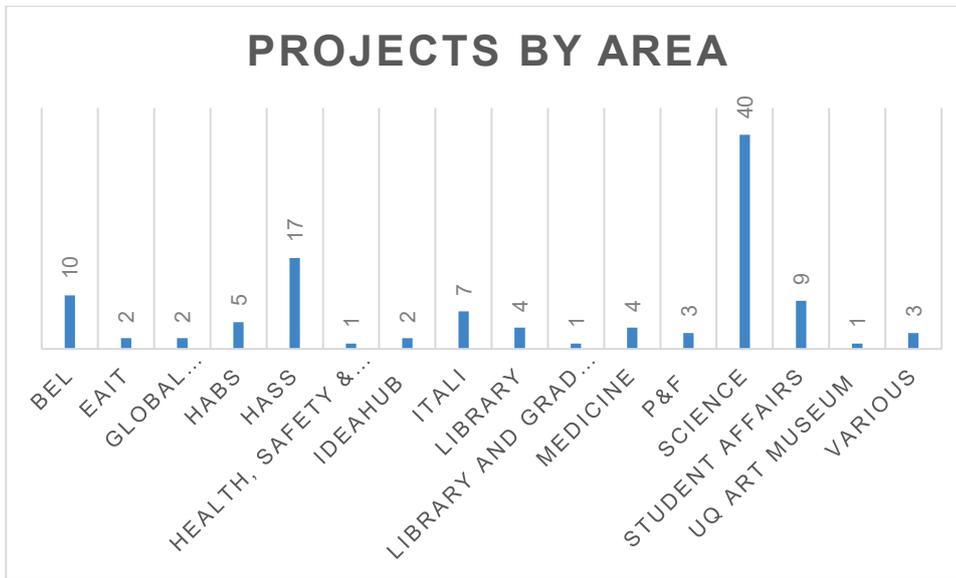

PROJECTS BY AREA

Figure 2: Partnership Projects by Faculty/Unit

Brief descriptions of the 2 EAIT partnership projects are shown in Table 2.

Staff Project Lead	Title of project	Aims	Deliverables	Number of student partners engaged in project
Melanie Fleming	*Co-creation of data analysis tools to explore and enhance the student experience*	This partnership project seeks to greater understand the student experience and enable staff to more readily respond to student feedback. NB: Project ongoing.	This project will co-develop a tool that will assist with analysis of large, predominantly text-based, datasets. It is envisaged that this will enable real-time access to student's perceptions of their learning experience.	2
Dr Stephen Hall	*Teamwork Discipline Study Across the Undergraduate Engineering Program*	Teamwork is a core discipline that Engineers Australia and UQ has identified as an essential skill for engineers. The aim of this project will be to greater understand the development of teamwork skills in Engineering curriculum at UQ	This project will develop methods of assessing and summarising where, throughout the engineering undergraduate program, teamwork is embedded (including data from SeCATs, ECPs and Blackboard).	1

Table 2: 2018 EAIT Partnership Projects

Enhancements for 2019

In the next phase of the initiative, the UQ Student-Staff Partnerships team will be making the following amendments in response to feedback received from Student and Staff Partners and Student Representatives. Now that systems have been established, the UQ Student-Staff Partnerships team is in the position to roll-out these further supports:

- As of 2019, there will be four main rounds in which UQ students and/or staff can submit projects. Timelines are provided on the Student-Staff Partnership Project website and in Appendix A.

- A suite of Professional Development Workshops for UQ Student Representatives and Student Partners will be provided. Topic areas have been identified through Student Representative and Student/Staff Partner feedback. The list of sessions for 2019 is provided in Appendix B.

- The creation of Project Streams for Student-Staff Partnership Projects in consultation with a range of stakeholders. These include: Teaching & Learning; Student Experience; and Governance & Strategy. Descriptions are provided in Appendix C.

- The development of a mentoring network for 2019 Student Representatives and Partners. Based upon the findings of the scoping study currently underway, a set of key recommendations will be delivered to the UQ Student-Staff Partnerships Operational Group.

- Review and re-development of content for all project guidelines, forms and webpages in preparation for 2019. Feedback was elicited from a range of stakeholders to enhance these documents.

- As of Round 1, 2019, Inductions will increase in duration from 1 to 2 hours to provide opportunities for groups to develop clearer partnership expectations at the commencement of their projects. The UQ Student-Staff Partnerships team is collaborating with HASS Student Futures and Student Partners in the re-design of these Inductions. The team will pilot holding Inductions in streams to ensure that content is contextualised according to the project stream.

- Faculty Snapshots will be created for each Partnership Round to enable greater Faculty buy-in, recognition of Partners, and to identify areas of synergy. This Faculty Snapshot will be provided to Faculty AD(A)s and Executive Deans.

- Information and Consultation sessions will be run in conjunction with rounds to provide support for Partners in scoping their projects prior to submission; highlighting the process involved in projects; provide strategies and tips for students when applying to projects; and answer questions of students and staff. Previously, one information session was held per month.

- The initiation of networking events to enable and foster peer mentoring and knowledge-sharing amongst Student and Staff Partners across a range of projects. Prior to these events, opportunities will be provided for partners to identify themselves as Champions, and they will be identified at the commencement of the event. During the event, these Partners will be available to provide practical strategies, listen to challenges and mentor other partners.

Challenges

- Recognition of staff involvement in initiative: Engaging in the process of partnership takes time, and thus staff must invest time to engage in partnership. Some Staff Partners have raised concerns that the current workload model does not support academic, professional and sessional (casual) staff members to collaborate in partnership projects. This requires structural changes to performance matrix's and greater buy-in from university executive through formalised recognition of staff

involvement in partnership projects. It is envisaged that the Faculty Snapshots will heighten awareness of the range of staff involved in this initiative. The team is also collaborating with a range of stakeholders in determining ways in which staff may be further recognised.

- Sustainability post-2020: As with strategic university funding, there are concerns over sustainability post-funding. A key challenge facing the initiative is thus how to sustain momentum and the lifespan of the initiative after funding ceases. At its core, this initiative seeks to create a cultural transformation at UQ – however this takes significant time. A positive step has been the immediate co-funding of this initiative. Whilst co-funding was envisaged to commence in 2020, in the first phase of the implementation, co-funding immediately commenced with the HASS Student Futures team and the Faculty of Science.

Appendix A: Timelines for 2019 Partnership Projects

Student-Staff Partnerships Rounds Overview, 2019					
Round 1 Dates	Just-In-Time Round 1 Dates	Round 2 Dates	Just-In-Time Round 2 Dates	Activity	Where
29 October – 30 November 2018	10 December 2018 – 13 January 2019	8 April – 5 May 2019	13 May – 2 June 2019	Project submissions open to staff and students	Webpage: bit.ly/uq-spp
7 December 2018	18 January 2019	10 May 2019	7 June 2019	Project Leads will be notified of their submission outcome	Email from SSP
13 December 2018 – 20 January 2019	25 January – 17 February 2019	16 May – 16 June 2019	13 June – 7July 2019	Applications open for Student Partners	Webpage: bit.ly/uq-spp
21 January – 28 January 2019	18 – 25 February 2019	17 – 24 June 2019	8 – 15 July 2019	Project Leads sent student applications for shortlisting	Email from SSP
29 January – 1 February 2019	26 February – 1 March 2019	25 – 28 June 2019	16 – 19 July 2019	Student applicants notified of outcome	Email from StudentHub
				All project partners register for Partnership Induction	Email from SSP Register via StudentHub
4 – 15 February 2019	4 – 15 March 2019	1 – 12 July 2019	22 July – 2 August 2019	Student-Staff Partnership Inductions	Email from SSP Register via StudentHub

18 February 2019	18 March 2019	15 July 2019	5 August 2019	All projects commence	
10 April 2019	3 May 2019	28 August 2019	23 September 2019	Student and Staff Partner Networking Event	Email from SSP Register
17 May 2019	14 June 2019	11 October 2019	1 November 2019	All projects conclude	
23 May 2019	24 June 2019	18 October 2019	15 November 2019	Project Celebration	Email from SSP Register

Appendix B: 2019 Professional Development Program for Student Representatives and Partners

Workshop topic	Number of times per semester
Student feedback: How to collect it, and what to do with it?	3
How to make an impact in the meeting room	3
How to be a project manager who gets the job done	2
Organisation & time management	2
Communication & public speaking	2
Enhancing your employability as a Student Partner & Rep	3
Peer coaching	1

Appendix C: Partnership Project Streams

Teaching & Learning

Student-Staff Partnership Projects within the Teaching & Learning Stream seek to enhance curriculum content, design and facilitation. Examples may include

- Students Partners as Pedagogical Consultants or Advisors on courses. Students and Staff generate feedback with students within that course, conducting observations of teaching and collaborating to enhance, innovate, or co-create curriculum.

- Student Partners as Course Co-designers. Students and Staff collaborate on course design / development including the creation of interactive content, or innovative assessment or learning activities.

- Student and Staff Partners collaboratively integrating high-quality, learner-centred and inclusive course content and materials online.

Student Experience

Student-Staff Partnership Projects within the Student Experience Stream seek to enhance the academic, non-academic and social aspects of the UQ student experience. Examples may include:

- Student and Staff Partners co-facilitating workshops or events to enhance the student experience (such as: sense of belonging; networking with peers; employability development).

- Student and Staff Partners co-developing initiatives or programs that contribute to the UQ student experience.

- Student and Staff Partners co-developing materials and support resources for educational campaigns (e.g. diversity, sexual misconduct etc.).

- Student and Staff Partners analysing the success of student experience initiatives.

- Student and Staff Partners collaborating on the enhancement of the SSP initiative (serving as Partnership Mentors; enhancing the processes or support resources for SSP).

Governance & Strategy

Student-Staff Partnership Projects within the Governance & Strategy Stream seek to enhance student voice and supports within the decision-making processes of the University.

- Student and Staff Partners co-developing university strategy or policy that either has a direct or indirect impact on the UQ student experience.

- Student and Staff Partners co-developing support resources and mechanisms for students serving as representatives.

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