

Student-Staff Partnership Projects End of Year Report

May to November 2018

Context

In 2018, The University of Queensland (UQ) commenced the implementation of the university-wide Student-Staff Partnerships Initiative, consisting of Partnership Projects, Student Representation and Student Voice. The aim of the Partnership Project initiative is to create a cultural transformation at UQ whereby Students and Staff connect as equals, partners and co-collaborators on projects that seek to enhance the UQ student experience.

It is planned that over the course of three years, there will be 1,750 Student Partners across the University collaborating on Partnership Projects. Table 1 highlights the number of Student Partner Grants that will be available over these three years.

Year	No. of Student Partners
2018	350
2019	600
2020	800

Table 1: Available Student Partner Grants

“Without a doubt, the Student-Staff Partnerships have made me feel the most connected to the behind-the-scenes running of UQ than any other activity I have participated in at UQ ”

(Student Partner).

“[The Student Partner’s] input has allowed me to meet the contemporary needs of students and adjust my teaching so that it is more relevant to what they want to learn and experience in their degree”

(Staff Partner).

Partnership Project Statistics

The operationalisation of Partnership Projects commenced in mid-May 2018. Since this time, 338 Student Partners have either completed partnership 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 29% are international students, and 71% are domestic students.

There are currently 114 projects that have been funded through the Partnership Project initiative. 71 of these projects are contextualised within the curriculum, and 43 are within the broader student experience space. Approximately 97 academic staff and 50 professional staff have collaborated on projects. Some illustrative examples of partnership projects include:

- Student Partners as Teaching 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 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.

Impact of Initiative

At the conclusion of their partnership projects, both Student and Staff Partners are required to complete a Retrospective Report. This Report provides a high level overview of the outcomes and a self-reflection on the process of partnership.

Student and Staff Partners have overwhelmingly expressed positive sentiment regarding the process and impact of partnership. Staff frequently comment on their pleasant surprise on the ideas and expertise that Student Partners bring to the table.

An overview of some of the direct and indirect impacts of this initiative are also provided below:

- Student Partners have been subsequently hired as Tutors at the conclusion of their partnership projects to teach into the course that they re-designed.
- A Student Partner received the Kelly Services Future Scientist Award 2018.
- Student Partners have presented at various events including: Teaching and Learning Week Employability Showcase; Teaching and Learning Week Students as Partners Showcase; the inaugural UQ Student-Staff Partnerships Showcase; and School/Faculty Retreats.
- The Student Partners Adviser was an invited panel presenter at the TEN-STARS Conference Employability Panel to discuss Student-Staff Partnerships; and an invited presenter and workshop facilitator on Student-Staff Partnerships at the Future of Teaching and Learning Conference 2019.

For further details, please contact:

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Inaugural UQ Student-Staff Partnerships Showcase

On 3 October 2018, the Partnerships Team convened the inaugural UQ Student-Staff Partnerships Showcase.

This Showcase sought to provide an opportunity for UQ Student and Staff Partners and Student Representatives to share what they have learned about collaborating in partnership, and provide practical strategies for those wanting to engage in partnership to enhance teaching, learning and the university experience. More information on the showcase can be found on the Student-Staff Partnerships website.

The Showcase hosted 114 delegates from 18 universities, and consisted of 60 UQ Student and Staff presenters and a keynote from international expert Dr Catherine Bovill (Senior Lecturer in Student Engagement, University of Edinburgh).

Enhancements for 2019

In the next phase of the initiative, the Partnerships Team will be making the following amendments in line with feedback elicited from stakeholders and Partners.

- Four main rounds in which UQ Students and/or Staff can submit projects.
- A suite of Professional Development Workshops will be facilitated for Student Partners and Representatives.
- The creation of project streams, including: Teaching & Learning; Governance & Strategy; and Student Experience.
- Faculty Snapshots will be provided to AD(A)s and Heads of School to enable greater Faculty buy-in, recognition of Partners, and to identify areas of synergy. Note: this has already been disseminated for 2018.

Challenges

- Recognition of staff involvement in initiative: Engaging in the process of partnership takes time. 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 matrices 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.



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