Project Selection Criteria

The Student-Staff Partnerships Team and nominated Student Partners co-review and assess all project submissions according to the below criteria.

Alignment to SSP Projects program

- The project aligns to at least one of the three streams of the SSP program: Governance and Strategy, Student Experience, and/or Teaching and Learning.
- The project addresses the power dynamics that exist between students and staff members, and aligns with the Students as Partners ethos.
- The project reflects a co-creation, co-delivery, or collaborative engagement between students and staff members which is premised upon mutual learning, accountability and shared responsibility (i.e. not task delegation, rather ideation and collaboration), and aligns with the SSP mission statement and core values as detailed on the SSP homepage.
- The rationale and benefits of engaging in partnership (versus employing students) are clearly articulated in the project submission.
- The partnership project addresses a current challenge and its outcomes benefit UQ students in general, or a particular cohort.

Student Voices

- It is clear from the project submission that students are valued as experts and equal partners. Their voices are critical to address the challenge/s posed by the project instigator.
- The project is not too well defined, and is flexible regarding the project methods and outcomes, to enable student partners to contribute to the intellectual design and take joint ownership of the project.

Scope and timing

- The scope of the partnership is appropriate for the project to be completed within max. 13 weeks, taking into consideration the size of the team and the level of student engagement (their max. contact hours include the 2hr team induction, co-creating the project plan and retrospective report). Please be aware that engaging in authentic partnership takes time.
- The scope of the partnership is not for research outcomes only. If your project focuses exclusively on research outcomes (conduct experiments, publish journal papers etc.), the Summer and Winter Research Program may be suitable.
- The scope of the project is not part of ongoing university operations (e.g. clubs, societies and advisory groups), and is not something that a paid staff member would be doing as part of their role (e.g. a research assistant or project officer).
- The project is not set-up so that the project instigator is the “supervisor” or “manager” of the project. Instead, partners equally contribute to the project decisions and the distribution of project tasks.
- The project is innovative and does not propose the creation of resources or support networks that already exist on campus.

Student Partners

- Maximum of 4 student partners per partnership project. Based on feedback we received, we recommend 2-3 student partners and 1-2 staff partners per project. In larger teams, effective collaboration and communication can be challenging (e.g. scheduling team meetings).
- We encourage submissions to include student partners at the same engagement level (i.e. grant) to prevent a hierarchy within the team. If a student’s availability changes throughout the duration of the project, the level of engagement may be adjusted accordingly.
Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the project instigator?
The individual submitting the project idea will be referred to as the “Project Instigator” as opposed to “Project Lead”. This seeks to prevent any sense of hierarchy between partners and decrease confusion over who is “managing” the project.

Who can submit a project idea?
We encourage project submissions from UQ students (undergraduate and postgraduate (research and coursework)) and UQ staff members (academic and professional, casual, contract and continuing).

If you are a student, we encourage you to reach out to a staff member who you will partner with prior to submitting your partnership project. You will need to nominate a staff partner in the project submission form. In case you are unable to identify a staff partner, the SSP Team may be able to help.

What are the key things to avoid in my submission?
If you are a staff member, it is important in your submission, and in person, not to refer to ‘supervising,’ or ‘managing’ student partners. Utilising such language further asserts a power imbalance whereby staff members are then considered to be the ‘experts’, which can stymie student partners from taking ownership of the project.

Want help with your project submission?
If you have any queries, or would like further support in completing the project submission form or scoping your partnership project, please do not hesitate to contact SSP@uq.edu.au.

Student Employability Centre
SSP@uq.edu.au
employability.uq.edu.au/ssp-projects