

2022 Global Change Youth Research Project Description

Please use this template to create a description of each research project, eligibility requirements and expected deliverables. Project details can then be uploaded to each faculty, school, institute, and centre webpage prior to the launch of the program.

<p>Project title:</p>	<p>Eco-Diversity at the Margins: Integrating Ecosocial Work Practice in Social work Education through the Lens of Permaculture</p> <p>A key action proposed by young people attending the UQ 2022 Youth Forum was using council land for community gardens and ‘flourishing community gardens on every block for composting and promotion of healthier diets’. The current project builds on this proposal that was identified as important to young people by exploring the contribution of permaculture as a system-based holistic approach to sustainability.</p>
<p>Project duration, hours of engagement & delivery mode</p>	<p>Project Duration: Semester 2, 2022 The project will be undertaken during 4 week Winter Vacation [27th June – 22nd July] and 1 day a week during semester 2, 2022.</p> <p>Hours of engagement: 20-36 hours per week</p> <p>COVID-19 considerations: The applicant will be required on-site for the project.</p>
<p>Description:</p>	<p>Project Background</p> <p>Ecosocial work is an evolving framework for social work practice that promotes understandings and actions to respond to a global environmental crisis and new forms of social, environmental and ecological injustice. The underpinning ecosocial paradigm is reflected in a growing literature, social work agendas and collaborations as well as curriculum development in social work programs internationally. However, grounding ecosocial practice concepts across social work curricula remains an ongoing challenge for educators. Tidal zones, or the edges of rainforest and grasslands are the places where differing ecosystems meet, interact and create large amounts of diversity. It is these places at the edges where different communities and ecosystems interact that are often the most vibrant and productive. As social work educators (one of whom is also a practitioner of permaculture) it is this diversity at the margins that inspired this project to explore the intersections between ecosocial work and permaculture to enrich teaching and learning practices in social work.</p> <p><i>Permaculture - meaning Permanent Agriculture, or Permanent Culture is an integrated system of design which is based on observing natural processes and working alongside nature to create abundant sustainable systems. Diversity of thoughts and approaches is beneficial for the development and evolution of ecosocial work and enables social work to be resilient and remain relevant in an unpredictable changing world. This project draws on the system-based holistic lens of permaculture to critically examine notions of a good life and wellbeing and aims to provide ecosocial practice narratives for teaching and learning to enrich and deepen the repertoire of social work skills and practices within the ecosocial framework. By integrating ecosocial</i></p>

	<p>practice concepts into social work education, the project seeks to equip a new generation of practitioners with knowledge, skills and practices to work ecosocially with individuals, groups and communities to promote ecological justice, sustainability and wellbeing. Our work has been accepted for a new publication which will be an online accessible resource.</p> <p><i>Project Aims and Objectives:</i> The project draws on the system-based holistic lens of permaculture to critically examine notions of a good life and wellbeing and develop new resources for teaching and learning which can support social work students to think critically about local-global socio-environmental issues and enact ecosocial practices in a diverse range of social work settings as future practitioners with young people, families, groups and communities.</p> <p><i>Methodological Approach:</i> A Rapid Review (RR) of the literature (Cochrane Review) on ecosocial work, permaculture and social work highlighting practice examples.</p>
<p>Expected outcomes and deliverables:</p>	<p>The Winter Scholar will be expected to undertake a Rapid Review (RR) of the literature (Cochrane Review) following a protocol developed for the project.</p> <p>The Scholar will gain skills in the Rapid Review (RR) methodology. They will document the findings and have an opportunity to generate a poster and publication from the research. The student may also be asked to produce a report and oral presentation to the Global Change Institute at the end of the project.</p>
<p>Suitable for:</p>	<p>This project is open to 3rd or 4th year students only. While a background in social work or community development is preferred, students in the health and behavioural sciences, social sciences or humanities with a passion for sustainable natural systems and ecological justice are also encouraged to apply.</p>
<p>Primary Supervisor:</p>	<p>Dr Deborah Lynch Senior Lecturer, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work</p>
<p>Further info:</p>	<p>If applicants would like further information, please contact Dr Deborah Lynch on d.lynch@uq.edu.au</p>