What is the Community Engagement Program?

The Community Engagement Program (CEP) provides students studying courses within the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law (BEL) at The University of Queensland with the opportunity to work on real projects with organisations in the non-profit and community sector. Students are able to engage in an active learning environment as a member of a project team, taking on a role similar to that of a consultant and working with the organisation to create tailored solutions in response to a project brief.

Many non-profit and community organisations find it difficult to allocate resources and/or time to work on business projects. The CEP program links non-profit organisations with motivated and passionate students who are willing to offer their education, ideas and fresh perspectives through a supervised and structured program at no cost.

The program is co-curricular (not for credit), highly structured and offers professional, academic and industry support. Project topics and briefs are formulated and agreed upon before the commencement of each semester, when students have the opportunity to apply for a position on a project team with the organisation of their choice.

What is a CEP Project Advisor?

To further enhance the quality of the project outcomes and the student experience, CEP engages UQ MBA students and alumni as Project Advisors to mentor each of the project teams. A CEP Project Advisor exists to offer advice, assist with decision making, present alternative ideas and provide unique insights from a commercial perspective. This is an opportunity to assist BEL students in achieving social, personal and professional outcomes, whilst gaining an insight into the real issues faced in the non-profit and community sector.

What will be expected of a Project Advisor?

CEP projects are offered to students twice a year at the beginning of each semester. Projects commence in week two or three and run for approximately 10 weeks. As a minimum, Project Advisors would be expected to attend an initial meeting with the CEP Coordinator, attend one or two relevant workshops and meet with their student team regularly to provide guidance, feedback and advice. Through their involvement, Project Advisors help to ensure that each CEP project is successfully completed in a timely and professional manner.
How are the Project Advisors selected for each project?

MBA students and alumni will be notified of the projects on offer at the beginning of each semester. Should one of these projects be relevant to your background, and you are confident you are able to meet the minimum commitments, you are encouraged to apply. Project Advisors are selected based upon the relevance of their previous experience to the project topic.

What is the Community Project Award?

From 2015, CEP became a competition among students with a prize for the winning project team and acknowledgement awards for outstanding achievement. The project outcomes are assessed by professional staff, academics and stakeholders of the organisations, considering criteria such as the understanding of the social outcome, social innovation, integrity of the research and overall professionalism displayed. In order for a project team to be eligible for consideration, students must attend all workshops, organised activities and meet the deadlines for their project milestones.

Our partners have included:

Where to from here?

If you are interested in becoming an Project Advisor, please contact the CEP Coordinator:

Community Engagement Program (CEP) Coordinator
Student Employability Team (SET)
Faculty of Business, Economics and Law
The University of Queensland
07 3365 4222
careers@bel.uq.edu.au

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bel.uq.edu.au/set