BEL Student Employability Team (SET)

Community Engagement Program
Information for Students

What is the Community Engagement Program?

The Community Engagement Program (CEP) connects Business, Economics and Law (BEL) students with non-profit and community organisations, offering the opportunity to lend your knowledge and ideas to real business activities and initiatives. You 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 stakeholders of the organisation to create tailored solutions in response to a project brief.

The program, now in its fourth year, is highly structured and offers professional, academic and industry support along with preparation workshops, and is guided by set project management milestones. As a student within the BEL Faculty at The University of Queensland you have the opportunity to apply for a position on a project team at the beginning of each semester.

The program challenges you to develop business planning and strategy skills, industry knowledge, leadership capability and networking skills. It’s an opportunity for you to expand your networks, gain employability skills and give back to non-profit organisations through the value of your input and ideas.

Why get involved?

By participating in the program you will have the chance to utilise your tertiary level education and life experience to provide fresh perspectives and solutions to existing issues, or innovative approaches to new initiatives. You will be working on real projects and be accountable to your external stakeholders for delivering results, just as you would be in the work place. The program also offers a unique position from which to develop your leadership skills and gain an insight into the challenges facing organisations in the non-profit and community sector.

Community Project Award

In 2015, CEP became a competition amongst students with a prize for the winning team and acknowledgement awards for outstanding achievement. The project outcomes are assessed by professional staff, academics and stakeholders of the organisations, taking in consideration criteria such as the students’ 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, you must attend all workshops, organised activities and meet the deadlines for each milestone.
How much time will I need to commit?

CEP runs for the length of the semester, with final project deadlines falling before the exam block commences. Participants typically dedicate 2-3 hours per week to working on their CEP project, including a weekly team meeting either in person or via an online platform, such as Skype or Google Hangouts. You will be required to meet with your stakeholders regularly and keep them informed of your progress. Depending on the requirements of your project, your group may be required to spend time onsite with your organisation.

How are students selected?

To be eligible to apply for and participate in CEP, you must currently be enrolled in a postgraduate course in business, economics or law, or have completed at least one year of full time study in an undergraduate program in business, economics or law (16 credit points). This includes dual degree programs.

Students are selected for each project via an online individual survey application, where you can select your project preferences, outline your previous work/volunteer experience and describe your passion for the cause of the organisation you wish to work with. Groups of between four and six students will be assigned to each project and notified via email.

Our Partners

Where to from here?

Eligible students will be invited via email to register for an information session. The online survey application survey will be circulated to students after these sessions have occurred.

For further information, please contact the CEP Coordinator:

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