

Enhancing Engagement through Projects: An Insight into Student Clubs and Projects Grants at QUT

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Marked as one of the largest commuter campuses in Australia, QUT faces numerous challenges when attempting to engage its students. Teamed with limited structural resources, restricted sporting facilities, and a university union with limited interest in student engagement, QUT has struggled with creating a meaningful sense of belonging amongst its students. With the introduction of the Student Engagement program, QUT is taking a more intentional, holistic approach to engaging the diverse needs of its students.

Some of QUT's key priorities are centred on building graduate capabilities, strengthening on-campus communities, reducing attrition rates, and increasing the numbers of students representing marginalised communities. Together with funds available for University-wide flagship events, QUT's Student Engagement program is meeting these goals by bringing the focus to student driven projects and learning opportunities, while empowering students to create their own unique university experiences.

The intent behind Student Clubs and Projects (SCAP) Grants is to build on-campus communities, build leadership capabilities, and provide funding to under-represented student groups. The initiative invites students to contribute to the overall student experience, while gaining valuable transferrable skills in the process. QUT's commitment to enhancing the international experience of both international and local students is one that has been integrated into the Student Engagement program with the celebration of large scale international and cultural festivals driven by student organisational teams.

With these programs, QUT is developing a deeper appreciation of project team dynamics, and their effect on delivering highly motivated, effective leaders. This paper will focus on student grant recipients, particularly student project teams, and how this can contribute to engaging diverse interest groups, extra-curricular engagement and leadership development.

Key Words

Clubs
Students Engagement
Project Teams
Student Leadership