

Students as Partners

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Belonging: Co-creating inclusive spaces – Enabling student success [Nexus Priorities 2.2]

Purpose and Overview

Purpose: The Students as Partners (SaP) approach aims to enhance the student-teacher partnership by repositioning learners as active contributors in their learning journey. SaP delivers enriched learning experiences by engaging student partners in structured collaboration and real-time feedback, empowering them to actively shape course design and refinement.

Project overview: This project developed a model that integrates ongoing student feedback into teaching. The project examines two key barriers - staff workload and meaningful recognition of the time and feedback student partners provide.

Skills Developed: Active listening, building strategic partnership, stakeholder management, implementing feedback

Activities and Outputs

This project establishes the foundation for embedding the SaP approach within the Faculty of Science's future strategy. A Faculty working group (WG) was formed to systematically integrate student voices into curriculum redesign, moving feedback from episodic to ongoing practice. **A key deliverable is a Practical Guide for staff and students, to support consistent and sustainable partnership.**

From 2026, **a SaP Network will extend this work by strengthening student-staff collaboration across Faculties and Schools through strategic engagement with student societies.** This network will enable staff to actively support society-led initiatives, reinforcing student belonging and wellbeing and partnership beyond formal teaching contexts.

Evidence of Impact (Implementation)

School of BABS – SaP integration into 16 courses (60%) with 120+ student partners annually; recorded 67% success in improved Overall learning experience and sense of belonging (felt part of learning community)

Faculty of Science – SaP WG represented by Faculty (2), Schools (4) and Students (2) published 1 practical Framework to 22 academics in SCI (2025); 1 NEW SaP integration in Math & Stat (T1 2026); SaP Network 2026 with representative from student societies (19), Schools (5) and Faculty (2)

Evidence of Impact (SoTL)

Presentations - Local (1); National (2) and International (2) conference presentations; **Invited speaker** at La Trobe University

Publications (1) book chapter

Ethics (1) - Impact of SaP on student and staff

Relevant Links/Education (Research/SoTL/Resources) Output List

- Deeper student-teacher partnership in 5 steps - DOI: <https://doi.org/10.14742/apubs.2023.496>
- BABS Student Ambassador Program Plug-n-Play Pack – [easy integration in under 60 mins](#)
- Recognise student partners via AHEGS – [Application and Implementation Pack](#)
- A facilitated model – managing staff workload in student-teacher partnership - [2024 report](#)
- [A framework to Students as Partners](#) by Faculty of Science Students as Partners Working Group