

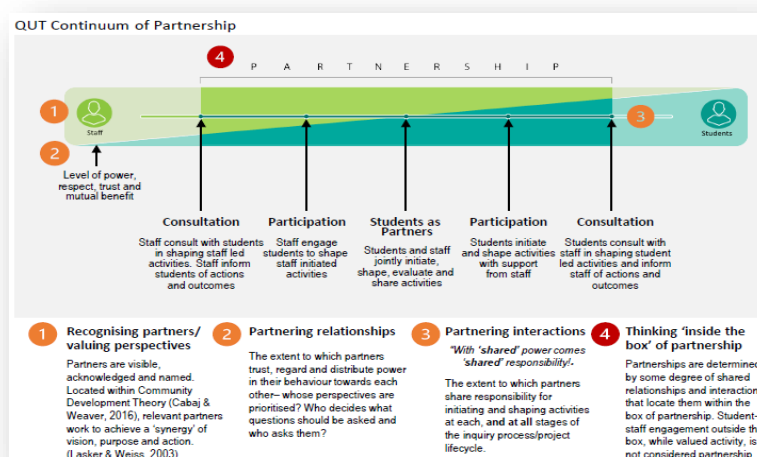
OASIS Planner Beta Experience – Students as Partners Case Study

Summary of the initiative

The Digital User Experience and Insights (DUXI) team have built a new feature within OASIS aimed at empowering and equipping students with the tools and strategies to stay organised leading up to and throughout each semester. The ‘My Planner’ product includes fundamental event management functions and provides prompts, support, and suggestions to users. The Beta Test Experience is an initiative which involves the participation of 11 pre-selected students to participate as Beta testers. For the duration of the testing period, only these 11 students will have access to the OASIS Planner. The Beta testers are encouraged to provide feedback throughout the testing process in the form of survey responses and focus group participation. This is a Students as Partners initiative in seeking to collaborate with students and incorporate their valued feedback towards ensuring this product is accessible, meaningful, and helpful before it is rolled out to all students. The DUXI team feel it is essential for this tool to be accessible to all diverse backgrounds and needs and believe that the Beta testing students could be instrumental in achieving this goal. Students will be motivated and encouraged to demonstrate a high level of engagement throughout the initiative, providing the DUXI team with tangible, actionable feedback.

How will the students be engaged as partners?

Students will be engaged as partners in the form of collaborators to the testing process and co-creators of additional features. Student feedback will be gathered in the form of weekly surveys and focus groups throughout the semester pertaining to all parts of the OASIS Planner. The feedback provided from the testing students will shape the future of the Planner. This ranges from bug fixes, minor tweaks, additional features, and overall user experience. On the Partnership Continuum this initiative sits between Participation where staff engage students to shape staff-initiated activities, and Students as Partners where students and staff jointly initiate, shape, evaluate and share activities.



What types of students will you be engaging?

A diverse pool of students was intentionally recruited, all of which are undergraduate, semester based and chosen to be representatives of all faculties. Among the testing cohort are representations from equity groups including low socioeconomic status (SES), Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander (ATSI), and Remote, Regional and Rural (RRR) students from International, domestic, online, internal, part-time, and full-time study modes. Student testers were also chosen from first year, second year and beyond with some testers residing outside of Australia and whose main language is not English. It is hoped that the diversity amongst the Beta testers will enable DUXI to receive true representations and feedback from the many and varied needs of Curtin's diverse student population, enabling them to provide a product that resonates with every student, regardless of their unique circumstances.

Skills and training required and time commitment

To be considered for this initiative, students were required to have an adequate level of verbal and written communication skills to be able to adequately provide feedback and effectively participate in focus groups. Additionally, there was some level of digital literacy required to use the planner itself. The levels of both communication and digital literacy could be assumed to some degree as all students need a basic level of skills in these areas to be eligible for higher education. Over the course of the semester, students will be encouraged to invest around 12 hours' time commitment to take part in this initiative.

Reward and/or recognition for Student Partners

All students participating in the Beta testing are eligible for [Curtin Extra](#) accreditation which provides official recognition for students who have made significant contributions to co-curricular programs. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to receive Prezzy gift vouchers in instalments based on survey completion and focus group participation. The total possible monetary reward based on 100% participation is \$300 which includes an additional lump sum of \$50 if they participate in more than half of the surveys and focus groups. By participating in the meeting, weekly surveys and focus groups, Student Partners will further develop their communication skills, both verbal and written and increase their digital literacy ability. There is also potential to develop other skills such as time management and problem solving as they manage their already busy schedules to include the extra hours the Beta testing requires into their timetables.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (UNSDG) addressed

The UNSDG that is being addressed during this initiative is Goal #4 which ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Students early responses to the initiative

The initiative launched early in March and the first round of survey responses indicate that students are responding well to the 'My Planner' and are actively providing feedback. "It's made me feel a lot calmer knowing that if I feel I have missed something, I can just refer back to my planner", and "The act of using the planner has helped me feel less overwhelmed about my workload", are just a couple of the positive responses the DUXI team have received so far. Other students have referred to the Planner as being nicely set up and easy to navigate as well as providing a better vision of what is outstanding for the day and what the students are expected to complete in the following days. When students and staff work together to create, test, and evaluate products like this, the end result is more likely to be received better, and used more effectively and efficiently by students thus improving their education and all over Curtin experience.