



Information for SLE352 (Community Science Project), T1, 2020

SLE352:

- Is the core Professional Practice unit for students completing the Bachelor of Science
- Is offered by the School of Life and Environmental Sciences at Deakin University in Trimester 1.
- Is a **team based project** experience.
- Provides an opportunity for students to develop skills in teamwork and communication in an area of interest relating to major sequences offered in the degree.

Students must complete one of the major sequences as part of their degree:

Animal Biology	Cell Biology	Chemistry
Chemistry and Materials Science	Environmental Science	Genomics
Geography	Human Biology	Mathematical Modelling
Plant Biology		

In SLE352, a project:

- involves working with others on a project for a client
- is not completed solely at the organisation or workplace although may involve visits to the workplace / organisation to consult with the client
- is complete when all goals set by the team in consultation with the client have been achieved to the satisfaction of the client.

The projects for SLE352:

- are sourced by the unit team. Students do not have to find their own project but apply for projects of their choice[#].
- provide an opportunity for students to work with others in a team (min 2 – max of 6 students) on a task for a client
- may not necessarily be in the area you are seeking employment but provide an opportunity for you to showcase your emerging and transferable skills.
- have a client at an organisation who provides input to the project as appropriate.
- Requires an approximate 80 hours contribution for each team member.
- are completed during trimester 1
- will be advertised on the SLE352 unit site prior to the start of T1.

[#] Whilst not a requirement, if you would like to source your own project with a team of students you can but the project must be approved by the unit team. For more information please contact the unit chair (jan.west@deakin.edu.au).

Allocation to a project

Due to the large enrolment for T1, 2020 (Currently at 174) the process of assigning students to projects has changed from that previously stated.

Projects will be advertised on the cloud unit site prior to the start of Trimester 1 in order to give students time to review all projects prior to the allocation becoming available for project sign up in Week 1 of trimester (after classes have on both Burwood and Geelong have been delivered).

Project allocations will open Friday March 13, 2020 at 12.00pm (midday).

Project allocations will close Monday March 16, 2020 at 12.00pm (midday)

This is a tight timeline so we can finalise allocations at the beginning of Week 2.

Allocations will be made **on a first in, first served basis** via the cloud unit site. A small number of projects will require approval from the client before allocation is finalised by the unit team. Details of these projects will be given in the advertisement.

Assessments for the unit

The assessments have been modified slightly for T1, 2020 based on student feedback received from T1, 2019. The number of assessments has been reduced from 5 to 3 tasks plus the client evaluation. See table below.

How is the unit assessed in 2020?

The assessment are listed below as shown in the 2020 Deakin Handbook. More details will be available on the unit site.

Assessment Description	Student output	Weighting (% total mark for unit)	Indicative due week
Project brief	Collaborative project brief	20%	Week 4
Project presentation	Team oral presentation	25%	Week 11 or 12
Project outcomes and Performance review	Self-reflection and documentation of project goals	45% (10%, 15%, 20%)	Week 13
Client evaluation	Client evaluation of the team performance	10%	Week 13

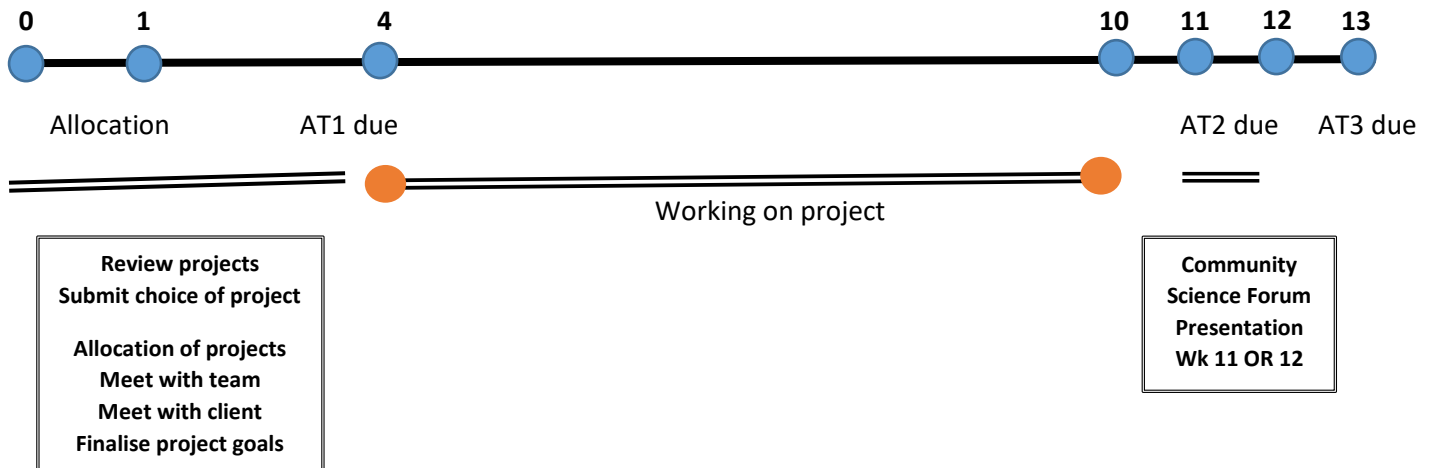
What is the purpose of the project?

- The projects run for approximately 6 weeks (approx. Week 4 – Week 10) of Trimester 1, 2020.
- The quality of the resources that the team produces as outlined in the project brief is assessed by the client (10%)
- The resources that are produced as a result of completing the project and the processes used by the team are used in the Project outcomes and Performance Review assessment (45%) and the Project Presentation (25%).

Overview of Assessment Tasks

The diagram below provides a basic overview of the tasks in the unit – more details will be available on the unit site.

Weeks of trimester



Examples of projects

Here are a number of examples of projects offered in T1, 2019, showcasing some of the outcomes achieved and tasks completed

<p>4. Compostability of biodegradable plastic bags</p>  <p>4. Compostability of biodegradable ... Word document padlet drive</p>	<p>Task: Team designed and conducted a research project to investigate how readily different types of biodegradable plastic bags degraded in different types of compost.</p> <p>Researched and reported what councils provided for residents in regards to recycling.</p> <p>Outcomes – Wrote a scientific report of the findings following journal guidelines.</p>
<p>20. Rebranding Fishcare</p>  <p>20. Fish Care Victoria Rebranding Fi... Word document padlet drive</p>	<p>Task: One of the major tasks was the development of new Logo for Fishcare Victoria Inc.</p> <p>Fishcare website</p> <p>Logo created by the SLE352 team is currently being used by Fishcare</p> 

17. Life's a Beach



17. Life's a Beach - Radio Marinara
Word document
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Task: To research a topic about the marine environment

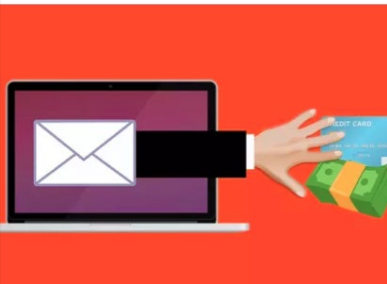
Develop a story of interest to the community

Present on live radio (3RRR Radio Marinara) on 3RRR

To listen to the students on radio with Dr Beach (Assoc Prof Peter Beech) go to ondemand.rrr.org.au

Christine May and Lina Wood) Sunday May 24 from 9.00am

27. The impact of shonky emailed survey invitations



27. email scams Philip Derham
Word document
padlet drive

In 2018, 79% of researchers who used quantitative research used online and on-mobile surveys.

Invitations to participate in these surveys are mostly sent to prospective participants by email, with a link to the survey included in that email.

The project identified whether people are aware of these scam invitations and what, if any, safety screening processes are undertaken.

Project offered by Philip Dernham Pty Ltd

9. Drilling for oil - Torquay Museum Without Walls



9. Drilling for Oil_TMWW
Word document
padlet drive

The Torquay Museum Without Walls wanted a team to research and report on a historical story on the drilling oil in the Torquay / Jan Juc area. In the 1920s, the Torquay Oil Wells Corporation was formed to investigate the possibility of oil in the Torquay / Jan Juc area. Who was this company? What led them to believe there may have been oil there?

Much of the information could not be found by a Google search. They collected information through interviews, old library archives, microfilm.

[Torquay Museum Without Walls website](#)

Their article was published in the Torquay Museum Without Walls "History Matters" magazine.

Frequently Asked Questions

(1) Pre-requisites for SLE352 (Community Science Project)

You must have successfully completed STP010 Career Tools for Employability and 12 credit points of study.
Note: STP010 was previously called Introduction to Work Placements

(2) Is it a requirement of the unit that I source my own team and own project?

No, the unit team sources projects for all students enrolled in the unit. Students then self-allocate to a project. Projects are advertised on the cloud unit site just prior to the start of T1.

(3) Am I able to source a project?

Yes we appreciate the efforts of some students who are proactive and source their own projects (and team). If you have an idea or a contact at an organisation please contact the unit chair (jan.west@deakin.edu.au) or campus coordinator (jacqui.adcock@deakin.edu.au) to discuss further.

(4) When will I be able to see what projects are on offer?

Information on the projects will be available on the SLE352 cloud unit site prior to the commencement of T1 (date to be determined).

What is the purpose of the project?

The experience of the project provides you with evidence / artefacts that demonstrate your achievements that is needed for the Project outcomes and Performance Review assessment (45%) and the Project Presentation (25%).

The projects are designed around building and developing good team work skills and good communication skills.

The project that you complete may not be in the area that you will end up gaining employment but will provide you with an opportunity to develop skills and expertise that you can then transfer to other applications.

You may wish to choose a project that will allow you to develop some specific skills that you don't currently have. Skills termed "soft skills" by employers are becoming increasingly more important.

"Though academic ability is, of course, important, when it comes to recruiting science graduates, high level academic achievement was only considered essential by 6% of respondents (employers), while the ability to **work collaboratively** was rated most important by 60% of respondents."

This is a very interesting article – [Why soft skills are just as important as academic ability in science graduates](#)

(5) When are the projects completed?

Projects are completed during T1 and are typically completed in 6 weeks.

(6) How many hours needs to be dedicated to the project?

Each team member should contribute ~80 hours of work to the project. Each unit offered at Deakin University should take ~150 hours of work to complete. The 150 hours takes into consideration assessments, contact hours for classes and the time taken to complete the project.

(7) Team based Project – can I do a project individually?

I know the guidelines of the unit state that the projects have to be completed in a team but I would rather do a project individually. Is this possible?

This one is not negotiable. All students must complete a project as part of a team. A team is two or more students (usually a maximum of 6).

(8) Location of the projects

I am a Burwood student but would really like to apply for one of the projects that is advertised in the Geelong area. I understand that if I chose this project it would involve some travel to visit the organisation and meet with team members. Am I able to apply for the position?

In general there is no location restriction on projects. Students can apply for any of the projects regardless of location. However, from past experiences when students were required to travel for site visits and team meetings at another location some did find this difficult. Please consider the requirements of the project carefully prior to applying. If you apply and are successful you will need to make a commitment to be an effective team member for that project. Saying to team members half way through “Sorry I am not able to travel to the site visit this weekend” will not normally be regarded as a valid reason.

If a project has a location restriction for say logistical reasons this will be clearly indicated in the project advertisement.

For projects where there are members from both campuses the location for the project presentation in Week 11 OR Week 12 will typically be where the client is located.

(9) Size of the teams

Is it an advantage to be part of a smaller team (2-3) rather than select a project that has more team members (4-6)?

The teams will vary in size. Ideally the size of the team is based on the work that needs to be done for the project. A project with 6 team members will have a larger scope than one that has 3 team members. Selecting a project with fewer members should not mean each member has more to do.

However, with larger teams it can be more challenging to arrange meeting times to ensure that all team members are present – you may want to consider how flexible your timetable is before applying for a project requiring a larger team.

(10) Special requirements for a project

Some projects will have special requirements that you will need to complete in order to participate in the project. E.g. A current Working with Children Check (WWC). Do I have to organise this?

Yes some projects will be based in schools and participants will require a WWC. It will be your responsibility to organise this check. If you are an Education student then you will already have a current WWC.

If you want to apply for a project that requires a WWC then you can apply online at the Working with Children website. There is no cost for a WWC if you apply as a volunteer.

Further questions

For any further questions please contact:

The Unit Chair:

Assoc. Prof Jan West

Email: jan.west@deakin.edu.au

OR

The Campus Coordinator

Dr Jacqui Adcock

Email: jacqui.adcock@deakin.edu.au

