Information for SLE352 (Community Science Project) T2, 2018

SLE352:

- is a core unit for students completing the Bachelor of Science.
- is offered by the School of Life and Environmental Sciences at Deakin University in Trimester 2.
- is a **team based project** unit **NOT** an individual placement unit.
- provides an opportunity for students to develop teamwork and communication skills in an area of interest.
- covers the interests of students by relating projects to the major sequences offered in the B.Sc.

There are notable differences between an SLE352 team based project and an individual work placement offered in other units.

In SLE352 a project:

- Involves working with other students on a task to produce an outcome for a client

- May not be completed at the organisation or workplace although may involve visits to the workplace / organisation to consult with the client.

- Students do not have a work place supervisor. Instead they have a client for whom they achieve project deliverables / outcomes.

- May or may not involve application of course specific knowledge / skills

- Is complete when all agreed upon project deliverables and outcomes 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 will have to 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

- Provide an opportunity allow you to showcase your transferable skills in a diverse range of areas.

- Are approximately 80 hours in duration for each team member.

- Are completed during trimester 2

- Will be advertised on the cloud unit site prior to the commencement of trimester 2.

Applying for project

Information about the projects and the application will be made available on the cloud unit site prior to the commencement of T2. You will not be able to apply for a project until you have access to the SLE352 cloud unit site (date to be determined).

You will submit an application for your first and second preference of project of your choice. Submitting an application does not guarantee that you will be allocated to either your first or

second choice of project. Whilst every endeavour is made to allocate students the project of their choice this is not always possible. Students are allocated based on their application.

You will be able to apply for a project as:

- An individual bid

- A pair bid – two students can apply for a position.

Project applications can be an individual bid or a pair bid for either or both preferences.

Application forms will be provided on the cloud unit site.

You may want to start considering who you would like to work with if considering a pair/team bid.

What information is needed for the application submission?

You will be expected to submit:

(1)   The application form stating your preferences

(2)   A statement (no more than 250 words) stating why the project is of interest and the skills and strengths you will bring to the project. If applicable what types of skills you would like to develop by participating in the project. If you are making a pair bid you will need to state how the combined skills of you and your partners will value add to the project.

(3)   An updated copy of your CV. You may have to tailor your CV and submit 2 different (targeted) versions depending on the projects you wish to apply for.
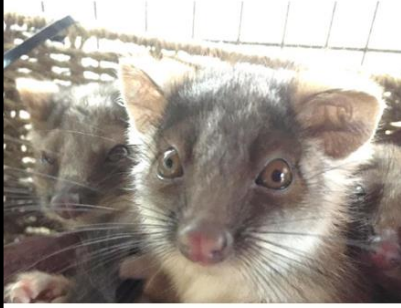
 Note: You will not be able to submit an application until you have access to the cloud unit site prior to the commencement of T2. This information is to give you details on what you will be expected to do.

STP010 is a pre-requisite for this unit and must be completed prior to commencement of the unit in T2, 2017.

Examples of completed projects

In 2017 35 projects were offered for 160 students. Whilst the projects will not be the same as those offered in 2017 these examples highlight the tasks the students completed and the outcomes they achieved. This is give you an idea of what was involved.

Who's Who at the St Andrews Wildlife Shelter

Who's Who_St Andrews Wildlife S...
PDF document

The Team:
- Designed a logo
- Built a website to promote the Wildlife Shelter
- Developed a database and entered information so staff can track individual animals.

These resources are currently being used by the client. See the website the team created:

https://www.**standrewswildlifeshelter**.com/

The website created by the team

Life's A Beach - 3RRR Radio Marinara

Life's a Beach - Radio Marinara
PDF document

The Team:
- Researched a topic about the marine environment
- Developed a story of interest to the community
- Spoke on live radio (3RRR Radio Marinara) on 3RRR

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

September 17, 2017 – Nick Taylor & Emily Newling
September 24, 2017) – Amy Rose Fraser

Nick and Emily in the studio after their broadcast on 3RRR

Butterflies - Nandankanan Zoological Park

Butterflies_Nandankanan
PDF document

The client was based in India so communication methods had to be established.

The Team:
- Designed and created resources to educate children about butterflies
- Resources included a set of swap cards with 20 of the most common butterflies found at the garden, an activities booklet and a brochure.
- The team sourced information about butterflies and then presented it in a format suitable for children.
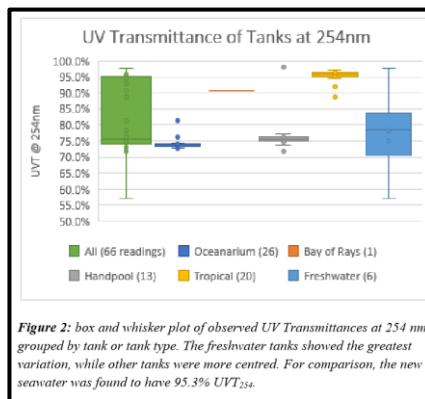

Swap cards created by the team

Dissolved Organics in Aquarium Systems SEALIFE - Melbourne Aquarium

Dissolved Organics Melbourne A...
PDF document

This project was chemistry based and a collaboration between Melbourne SEALIFE aquarium and Dr Angel Torriero at Deakin University. The Team:

- Made several site visits to collect water samples at different stages of the filtration process from a relatively new system used by the aquarium.
- Samples were analysed for dissolved organics to provide an indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.
- Compiled a scientific written report of the findings which was presented to the aquarium staff.

Figure 2: box and whisker plot of observed UV Transmittances at 254 nm, grouped by tank or tank type. The freshwater tanks showed the greatest variation, while other tanks were more centred. For comparison, the new seawater was found to have 95.3% UVT_{254}.

One of the results figures from the research the team completed

Body Paint Project - University Open Day at Geelong

The Teams (Burwood and Geelong):

- Designed and hosted an interactive display to engage the public at the University Open Days at Burwood and Geelong about interesting facts about the human body.

- Informed the public about life as a Deakin student

Painting on Open Day

FAQ's

Do I have to find my own team and own project?

No the unit team sources projects for all students enrolled in the unit.

Am I able to source a project?

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

A student who sources their own project will still have to submit an application that meets all the requirements for a successful applicant.

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

Information on the projects and how to apply will be available on the SLE352 cloud unit site prior to the commencement of T2 (date to be determined).

What is the purpose of the project?

The projects are team based. The projects are NOT individual placement opportunities. The projects are all 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. Just something to keep in mind.

I encourage you to choose a project where you may want to develop some specific skills that you don't currently have. What are termed "soft skills" by employers are becoming increasing 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 <u>work collaboratively</u> 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

https://insightsresources.seek.com.au/soft-skills-just-important-academic-ability-science-graduates

When are the projects completed?

All projects are completed during T2.

How many hours needs to be dedicated to the project?

Each team member should expect to contribute ~80 hours of work to the project. The 80 hours dedicated to the project is factored into the hour requirement for the unit. The expectation is that 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 project.

Team based Project

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

This is not negotiable. All students must complete a project as part of a team. A team is two or more students. The projects for this unit are team based. This unit is not an individual placement unit. Whilst there are similarities there are also distinct differences. Students have an option of submitting an individual bid for a project or a pair bid. If you prefer to know someone in the team then I strongly recommend that you organise with one of your colleagues to apply for a pair bid. More details will be available on the cloud unit site.

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 2017 we did not impose a location restriction on the projects. Students could apply for any of the projects regardless of location. However, when students were required to travel for site visits and team meetings some did find this difficult. I recommend that you carefully consider the requirements of the

project 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 an appropriate reason.

Some of the projects advertised in 2018 may be restricted to a specific campus for logistical reasons.

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 a bigger project (has a larger scope) than one that has 3 team members. Selecting a team with a larger number of members should not mean that each member has less to do! Alternatively members of teams with fewer members will not mean each member has more to do. However, it can be more challenging to arrange meeting times to ensure that all team members are present in a larger team – you may want to consider how flexible your timetable is before applying for a project as part of a larger team - just something to consider.

Unit Requirements

You must have completed STP010 and 12 credit points

Project Special Requirements

- Some projects will have special requirements that you will need complete in order to participate in the project. For example, the requirement of a currrent Working With Children's Check. Do I have to organise this?

Yes some projects will be based in schools and participants will require a Working With Children's Check. It will be your responsibility to organise this check. If you are an Education student then you will already have a current Working With Children's Check. If you want to apply for a project that requires a Working With Children's Check then you can apply online (http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/). There is no cost for a Working With Children's Check if you apply as a volunteer.

Further questions

For any further questions please contact Assoc Prof Jan West

Email: (jan.west@deakin.edu.au)