

Staff Partner Expression of Interest

If you do not yet have a Staff Partner, the following staff have expressed interest in the program. If a staff member's interests align with your own, contact them via their UTS email to find out if they are the right fit for your project.

Name	Email	UTS organisational unit	Area of interest for student experience improvement	Interest in the Students as Partners Project Grants program
Helen Chan	Helen.Chan@uts.edu.au	UTS Library	How open education such as open textbooks can improve the student learning experience and outcomes.	I value the student perspective and want to centre that in Library projects and services so that we are delivering the most benefit to students.
Sarah Ellis	Sarah.Ellis@uts.edu.au	Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion	<p>Recognising the impact of rising living costs on students, I'm interested in ways we could improve financial wellbeing for students and reduce financial barriers to education.</p> <p>Financial stress and hardship can have a negative impact on the success of students. In our work at the Centre for Social Justice & Inclusion, we are seeing that financial hardship is not only deterring prospective students from attending university, but it is also driving student attrition.</p> <p>There are significant opportunities to make a difference in this space, including through education, awareness building, and reducing stigma in asking for help.</p>	<p>Student voice is central. I'm interested in partnering with students to bring in their diverse experiences and ideas. This is a complex problem space and I'm excited about the opportunity to improve our understanding of financial vulnerability within the UTS student community and to help discover how to improve the experience for students facing financial vulnerability. More broadly, the UTS Centre for Social Justice & Inclusion drives positive social change both on and beyond our campus. We believe that universities exist for the public good and have a responsibility to use their resources and expertise to contribute to the creation of a socially just society. I personally have been working in the higher education sector for over 11 years in both the academic support space and in leading the strategic planning for student equity initiatives. Over this period, I have led the implementation of outreach programs that aim to increase the participation of students from underrepresented backgrounds in higher education. I would love to support a student group to develop and implement their ideas across the campus to make a difference.</p>

Dr Hossai Gul	Hossai.Gul@uts.edu.au	TD School	<p>The TD Electives Program at UTS fosters transdisciplinary learning for students across faculties, tackling complex challenges with excellence. Student narratives drive its evolution, shaping design and delivery. Assessment practice. Explore how your knowledge and understanding of the distinctive transdisciplinary capabilities developed by you and fellow students are assessed or tested? Teaching practice. Explore the distinct TD learning experiences of active workshops and project-based learning with community/industry partners - how are you and fellow students learning in these formats? Inclusivity and learner engagements. How are diverse learner needs supported in the TD learning experience? What are your stories and ideas?</p>	<p>Transdisciplinary learning and teaching is inherently and methodologically in partnership with students in both design and delivery. TD learning experiences must amplify integration of student agency and choice to enable purpose-driven action in collaboration with industry and community partners. I would love an opportunity to partner with students who are compensated for their time and the power imbalances are reduced to explore their TD experience. Student stories are more powerful when it is told and collected by students themselves. Students also have the best ideas to solve the problems affecting them. Not only would partnering with students to explore their own experiences of the transdisciplinary electives improve teaching practice and inform engagement within subjects delivered to all UTS faculties but the project will also be a deliberate application of their transdisciplinary knowledge and skills. The 'Student as Partners Project' grant scheme itself is an enactment of transdisciplinary change-making to have impact on their own community at UTS. This project will provide students with an opportunity to have impact on the learning experiences of most UTS students for years to come- so isn't just about the present- it's about shaping the future of learning experiences for countless UTS students.</p>
Jacqui Wise	Jacqui.Wise@uts.edu.au	LLE/DVCES	<p>Anything related to improving the 'business' of being a student - in particular, enrolment and timetabling challenges.</p>	<p>Aside from the fact that it comes with the territory, I am very keen to demonstrate that staff at all levels are passionate about supporting students and we put our time where our mouth is (as well as our money).</p>

Shiree van Miert	Shiree.vanMiert@uts.edu.au	UTS Online, Education Partnerships and product Strategy Unit in partnership with DAB and Keypath	<p>The UTS Online Master of Urban Design/Master of Urban Planning course is due for reaccreditation in 2025. The DAB Faculty, OPM tea, and our external partner Kaypath would like to restructure the course and reduce from 15 subjects/ 90 cps (2.5 years) the 12 subjects/ 72 cps (2 years). To do this well, we believe we need to incorporate students as partners and ask them important questions - what content should be removed, can we incorporate new technologies/software such as stroyboard into learning to improve the overall student experience? We feel students should influence the new direction of this course. At this stage, we have planned a student focus group in late April 2024. We currently have 2x students who have indicated their interest but feel we could engage more students if we were able to provide a financial incentive to being involved in this work.</p>	<p>I consider my role as staff partner between learning designers, faculty, Keypath and DAB academics already. Adding students to this will only enhance the curriculum transformation project we are hoping to achieve!</p>
Dr Elizabeth Brogan	Elizabeth.Brogan@uts.edu.au	Health	<p>The initiative aims to enhance the student experience by delivering a peer mentoring program for first-year students within the Faculty of Health. Students will receive support, guidance, and resources from peer mentors during their transition into university life. The pilot program will be delivered across two first-year subjects in the schools of nursing and midwifery, along with sports, exercise, and rehabilitation science. Mentor recruitment, training, and ongoing support ensure program effectiveness. The goal is to explore peer mentoring's impact on student learning, well-being, and confidence, ultimately improving satisfaction and academic outcomes for students.</p>	<p>As a staff partner, I am motivated by the opportunity to empower students as change agents, enabling them to enhance the university experience for themselves and their peers actively. The peer mentoring project offers students the platform to lead and implement an initiative that can foster positive change at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS). The peer mentoring project targets vital areas such as personal and academic support and inclusivity through peer-to-peer learner engagement. By collaborating with students on these initiatives, I am dedicated to facilitating their leadership and innovation, supporting their efforts to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for all members of the UTS community. Through this role, I am also committed to amplifying student voices, championing their ideas, and working collaboratively to drive meaningful and sustainable improvements for students at the University of Technology Sydney.</p>