

CURTIN STUDENT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

**CURTIN
STUDENT
GUILD**



Curtin University

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge First Nations Australians who have looked after this land for more than 60,000 years. We are honoured and grateful to have the privilege to maintain campuses operating in Perth and Kalgoorlie in Western Australia. We pay our respects to all Elders past, present and future as Custodians and Owners of these Countries. We recognise their cultural, spiritual, and educational practices and aspire to learn from their ways of working. We pay our respects to the First Nations people across Curtin's global campuses. We are committed to amplifying all First Nations voices and including Traditional Custodians in partnership and decision-making.

Curtin University and the Curtin Student Guild commit to adopting First Nations' knowledge and practice throughout the Student Partnership Agreement and the values of our First Nations staff, students, and community.

If you require the Curtin Student Partnership Agreement in an alternative format, please contact:

CURTIN STUDENT GUILD

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CURTIN STUDENTS AS PARTNERS

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studentsaspartners@curtin.edu.au

DOCUMENT CONTROL

VERSION	DATE	APPROVAL AUTHORITY	NAME
1.0	14/10/2024	Vice Chancellor	Professor Harlene Hayne CNZM
	14/10/2024	President, Curtin Student Guild	Jasmyne Tweed

Next renewal date: 14 October 2027

INTRODUCTION

The Curtin Student Partnership Agreement, referred to as the Agreement, represents a collaborative understanding between the Curtin Student Guild and Curtin University. It serves as a declaration of our shared Partnership Priorities and the objectives we aim to accomplish in tandem over a span of three years. The Agreement is reviewed annually, allowing for the documentation, evaluation, and communication of progress made in various activities to the broader Curtin community.

THE CORE PURPOSES OF THE AGREEMENT ARE TO:

- Create and promote a culture of staff and student partnership that is supported by all members of the Curtin community.
- Support staff and students to work together at all levels of decision-making and governance for the enhancement of quality learning and teaching, the student experience and outcomes for students.
- Encourage students' participation in governance as co-designers of their learning and student experience and in project co-creation.

BACKGROUND

Curtin University and the Curtin Student Guild joined forces to create and implement the inaugural Student Partnership Agreement, which became effective in December 2020. Together, we envision a future at Curtin where students can hold significant influence in shaping an environment that fosters a more meaningful, inclusive, and equitable student experience across the institution. All Curtin University campuses, both Australian and offshore (One Curtin) are committed to student partnership while respecting cultural and legal differences. We are continually facilitating innovative ways to achieve our shared objectives.

STUDENT PARTNERSHIP AND VOICE

A. FORMAL STUDENT REPRESENTATION

Students at Curtin are formally represented on boards and committees by elected and appointed members of the Curtin Student Guild who advocate for and represent the views of the student population. Engagement with formal student representation is considered the primary means of fostering student partnership, as these individuals bear the highest level of responsibility and transparency in representing the interests of the wider student body.

Any decision-making body, committee or board of the University should seek to work in partnership with students. The Guild will be welcome to be a member of any bodies that affect the student experience, in congruence with Section 44(2)(e) of the *Curtin University Act 1966*. As mutually agreed between each party, the Guild and the University Council will work together in a way that facilitates the Guild providing the representation of students to Council; one way that this could be achieved would be through an annual presentation to Council.

There are many existing practices that this partnership seeks to formalise, which include regular (monthly, or as agreed by the parties) communication channels maintained between:

- Curtin's Vice Chancellor and the Guild President.
- A member of each of the University and Guild Senior Executive teams who are assigned as liaison officers.
- Guild's International Students Committee President and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Global and Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Global.
- Guild's Postgraduate Students Committee President and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research.
- Guild Faculty Representatives and the respective Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor, Dean, Learning and Teaching, and Director/Manager, Student Engagement (or equivalent). In conjunction, faculty representatives will work in partnership with the faculty to lead Student Consultative Committees and other mechanisms for meaningful student engagement.

B. OTHER STUDENT PARTNERSHIP INVOLVEMENT

In addition to formal student representation, students are encouraged to engage in various Student Partnership and Voice programs and initiatives. These opportunities foster a reciprocal and meaningful collaboration between staff and students, emphasising co-design and co-delivery and empowering students to take ownership of the student experience. Students are supported and encouraged to shape their experience by:

- Giving honest, constructive feedback by taking part in surveys, focus groups and other feedback opportunities.
- Becoming a student member on Student Discipline Panels.
- Being a part of Faculty Student Consultative Committees.
- Becoming a peer facilitator, Curtin student mentor or other student leadership roles.
- Being a part of a student club or society committee.
- Joining Guild consultative groups such as autonomous equity collectives or the First Year Committee.
- Being involved in various Students as Partners projects and initiatives.

PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLES

The Curtin Student Guild and Curtin University are committed to:

INCLUSIVITY

- Being empathetic and providing special support to staff and students, being open to their unique needs.
- Showing respect for the views, opinions, and beliefs of others.
- Ensuring underrepresented student groups are sought out and engaged equitably.
- Adopting First Nations' practices and growing our authentic collaboration with First Nations people.

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE

- Ensuring that training and support are provided to all parties, to understand the principles, governance, procedures, life-cycle and expectations of each other and the spaces they engage in.
- Developing, comparing and sharing good practice models across our faculties and global campuses.

SHARED UNDERSTANDING

- Creating an engaging, supportive, and rewarding university experience where the student voice is central and everyone is able to be heard and generate positive change.
- Prioritising handover and sustainability of projects and partnerships.
- Developing strong staff leaders so they can meaningfully engage with students in partnership and understand the value of co-opting them in decision-making processes.
- Recognising the importance of student autonomy in student affairs.

COLLABORATION

- Embedding the student voice into all areas that affect the student experience.
- Prioritising collaboration in research, teaching, learning, facility design and developmental opportunities.
- Seeking and providing effective and relevant feedback.
- Acknowledging the differences in the student life-cycle and knowledge.

RECOGNITION

- Celebrating achievement and excellence in the pursuit of shared goals.
- Recognising formal and informal partnership engagement.
- Celebrating and promoting the community's diversity.
- Developing and recognising strong student leaders from the Guild and the wider student community.
- Recognising the Student Guild as the primary body that represents and is accountable to students.

SHARED VALUES

- Building authentic partnerships between staff and students, where both parties understand the importance of partnership, co-creation and recognising power imbalances.
- Upholding the values of both the Student Guild (autonomy, integrity, diversity) and the University (integrity, respect, courage, excellence, impact).

PARTNERSHIP WAYS OF WORKING

Derived from the six partnership principles, we incorporate First Nations' perspectives and language of reciprocity in working together for better outcomes.



ARTWORK BY RICKIESHA DEEGAN

ACCOUNTABILITY

Underpinning the Agreement is an annual action plan jointly created by nominated representatives from the University and the Guild, which sets clear goals and targets for partnership outcomes every year.

To ensure the principles of the Agreement are upheld, Curtin University and the Curtin Student Guild will:

- Provide reliable resources and support for partnership initiatives and student representation at Curtin.
- Include the Curtin Student Partnership Agreement in induction packs for relevant personnel.
- Support and empower all Curtin campuses to establish student representative committees or Student Guild branches where legally feasible.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Curtin Student Guild and Curtin University agree that:

- This framework shall become effective upon signature by the authorised officials from Curtin and the Guild and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any of the partners by mutual consent.
- This Agreement (and associated action plan) may be modified by mutual consent of authorised officials from Curtin University and the Curtin Student Guild.
- All parties will make every effort to support and promote this agreement to their members and staff.
- The Agreement shall be reviewed every three years by the President of the Curtin Student Guild (or delegated representative) and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic (or delegated representative), and is to be approved by the Vice-Chancellor and Guild President.

The undersigned agrees to the terms and conditions set out in The Partnership Agreement and is authorised by their respective organisation to make this agreement.



**PROFESSOR HARLENE HAYNE CNZM
VICE CHANCELLOR**

DATED: 14/10/2024



**JASMYNE TWEED
55th GUILD PRESIDENT**

DATED: 14 October 2024