

Name	Project Title	Project Description and Proposed Outcomes	Allocation
Leonie Nott	The Celebrating Nursing Project	<p>This project encompasses the design, delivery and evaluation of a one day professional Conference targeting both VE and HE nursing students of Victoria University. The Conference content and focus will be co-designed by Nursing students and staff from VU Employ, the College of Health and Biomedicine and the VU Polytechnic with input from staff at Western Health.</p> <p>The Conference aims to educate and instil in student attendees a deeper understanding and appreciation of the values, behaviours and mindset required of a Professional Nurse as well as provide insights into the day to day realities associated with working in this profession. A particular emphasis will be on the reality of Nursing during the COVID19 pandemic.</p> <p>The Conference program will include several Keynote speakers as well as breakout groups targeting specific topics. Most speakers will be currently registered Nurses who will be sharing their stories, insights and information. Graduate Nurse recruiters will also be engaged as Keynote speakers providing insights into what attributes they are seeking in Graduate Nurses.</p> <p>The event itself will provide an opportunity for students to come together with practitioners in a collegiate and supportive learning environment, to have a shared positive career enhancing experience with their student colleagues and to leave inspired and motivated to be the best they can be in their chosen profession.</p> <p><b>Proposed Outcomes:</b></p> <p>This project aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and enhance student's self-confidence, self-esteem and self-efficacy around their aspiration to become a professional Nurse. Enhancement of these three domains has been shown empirically to enhance employability</li> <li>• Provide students with deep insights into the values and behaviours required of professional Nurses in order to enhance the levels of professionalism our students demonstrate in the workplace both as graduates and as students on clinical</li> </ul>	\$4000.00

		<p>placements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an opportunity to showcase examples of professional excellence and shine a light on and celebrate a profession which is predominantly female at a time when the Nursing profession is making a significant contribution to the community during the COVID19 pandemic</li> <li>• Provide a focus on coping and wellbeing strategies for Nursing students about to embark on clinical placements in a COVID19 context</li> </ul>	
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Chitra De Silva	Career Coaching Symposium - September 2021	<p>Victoria University Business School (VUBS) needs to stand out in the current competitive environment by providing career support and industry engagement to students. Industry engagement and employability is one of the main focus areas of all the postgraduate and undergraduate courses offered by VUBS.</p> <p>We are planning to organise a Career Coaching Symposium to guide business students through the tools they need to make their career move once they complete their qualifications. The symposium's main objective is to maximise the chances of our students to enter the workforce by providing them with the opportunity to engage with prospective employers, relevant professional bodies, and enhance their employability skills through industry engagement and internship programs.</p> <p>This symposium will be open to all domestic and international students of VUBS and we are planning to extend the invitation to the Business students of the First Year College and VU Polytechnic. We appreciate the opportunity provided by the Student Experience Initiative Grant to achieve our objectives.</p> <p>The event will take place at Victoria University City Flinders convention centre. The event will be organised as a half a day session with an expected attendance of hundred and fifty students and staff.</p> <p>The symposium includes a plenary session and four concurrent sessions dedicated to the following themes :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Accounting and Finance</li> <li>2. Information Systems, ERP and Business Analytics</li> <li>3. Supply Chain Management, and Visitor Economy</li> <li>4. Business Management and Marketing</li> </ol> <p>Guest speakers will be invited from relevant industries, professional and accreditation bodies to represent the above themes. In organising this event VUBS will utilize its existing links with industry and the professional bodies such as , KPMG, Linfox, Metro Trains Melbourne, Football Federation Victoria ,CPA, CAANZ , CMA, AHRI and AMI.</p>	\$4500.00
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		<p>These sessions will educate students about required employability skills in a dynamic job market. They further highlight the importance of the relationship between the employability skills, internship and industry engagement. The symposium will also provide the networking opportunity to students</p> <p>Light refreshments will be provided at the end of the symposium while providing another guided networking opportunity to discuss how to approach potential employers to maximise the opportunities for employment.</p> <p><b>Proposed Outcomes:</b></p> <p>In general, this project will contribute to the student experience outlined by the SSAF legislation by helping students obtain employment or advice on careers, helping students develop skills in addition to undertaking courses of study in which they are enrolled and helping meet the specific needs of overseas students to gain local work experience.</p> <p>Specific outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Opportunities for Industry engagement</li> <li>2. Increasing opportunities for employment through skills development</li> <li>3. Opportunity to network with industry partners</li> <li>4. Strengthening the relationships and awareness among industry partners and relevant communities</li> </ol>	
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John Weldon	U R VU	<p>The VU student cohort is ethnically and demographically diverse. For many students, English is a second language. Yet, VU communicates almost exclusively in English.</p> <p>U R VU will make visible the full spectrum of the languages spoken and cultures respected, at VU via a series of posters that display the phrase This is YOUR VU (or something to that effect. We want the students involved in the project to determine the exact phrasing in order that the project is truly representative of them.)</p> <p>The chosen phrase will be written, on the posters, in every language spoken at VU. There will be a large mural/vinyl/paste up in the Building M courtyard at the Footscray Park campus which gathers all these welcomes together in one huge installation.</p> <p>The posters and the mural will link, via a QR code, to short videos, delivered by our diverse student cohort in each of the languages included on the posters, which will further provide students with information about VU and its community (orientation, services, useful tips, etc.) in their own languages.</p> <p>The posters and videos will feature VU students speaking in their first languages and will be designed, scripted, filmed and produced by a team of VU students, guided by John Weldon and Loretta Konjarski and The Video HIVE team.</p> <p>As VU seeks to be more inclusive, diverse and more welcoming and open to its student body, so should it look at ways to make overt the wealth of cultural diversity found on its campuses. Simply making this diversity visible, though, is not enough. U R VU seeks to marry the visible to the useful by employing our diverse student body to create their own knowledge, by employing them to design and create the posters and short informational videos.</p> <p><b>Proposed Outcomes:</b></p> <p>The project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U R VU will help orient students, in that the information provided in various languages will be directly relevant to student's lives on</li> </ul>	\$10,000.00
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		<p>campus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will provide a huge and ongoing welcoming and supportive presence in student lives via the posters and vinyl paste up and, as such, is directly aligned with the VU strategic plan in terms of making VU open and accessible.</li> <li>• The students, involved in the design, production and execution of the project will gain valuable collaborative, creative, multi-modal digital and entrepreneurial skills. U R VU will provide VU's diverse student body with art and media products intentionally designed to create a sense of inclusivity at VU, to provide useful information that might not otherwise be available to student for whom English is a second language.</li> <li>• Those students who are actually involved in the production will develop media production, project management, collaboration and creative skills that will be acknowledged via a participation certificate and written reference.</li> </ul>	
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<p><b>Jean Hopman</b></p>	<p><b>Cultural Safety Student Ambassadors</b></p>	<p>Victoria University is committed to promoting student's health, welfare and well-being by supporting cultural safety throughout the university. This project seeks to implement a cultural safety program that draws together Cultural Safety Student Ambassadors (CSSA) from each college. CSSAs will work alongside committed staff to explore cultural safety issues in the university and the wider community.</p> <p>Cultural safety describes the ethics of interactions within an inclusive cultural collective (Hunt 2013). People feel comfortable expressing their culture and feel safe from discrimination in a culturally safe environment. To ensure cultural safety, an element of cultural awareness and competence is necessary. Cultural safety and competence are often understood within a frame of ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity, yet some cultural competence initiatives also include a focus on gender and sexual diversity as well as diverse abilities (for example, Olson, Bidewell, Dune, &amp; Lessey 2016). Selzer, Todd and Foley (2018) recommend that organisations develop a shared understanding and values of cultural inclusion through mentoring, increased transparency in policy and procedure, implementing collaboratively constructed guidelines, and opportunities for human interaction. Hence, the following program is nominated to enhance the cultural safety of Victoria University.</p> <p>Initial cultural safety training/initiative: The program will include specific and extended cultural safety training for staff and students. Two student and two staff representatives will be sought from the College of Arts &amp; Education, VU Business School, College of Engineering Science, First Year College, College of Health &amp; Biomedicine, College of Law &amp; Justice, College of Sport &amp; Exercise Science and the VU College. The intention is for the thirty-two participants to become aware of cultural safety and steps to ensure that university members feel culturally safe.</p> <p>Mentoring education: Staff engaged in the program will be selected for the program based on their commitment to improving the student experience through enhanced cultural safety practices. Staff members will be expected to undertake mentor training to mentor a CSSA in leadership and to navigate relevant university policies and procedures, such as the Diversity Inclusion and Equal Opportunity procedure. It will be necessary for the mentoring relationship to feel comfortable for each party; hence, a matching process will be undertaken through a survey approach.</p>	<p><b>\$6000.00</b></p>
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		<p>Facilitation education: The CSSAs will learn how to facilitate a support group from a cultural safety perspective. Students will learn strategies to assist sensitive dialogues, such as being respectful of a person's position or experience, while ensuring that another person is not left feeling unsafe. Students will learn about the complexities of intersectional discrimination and how to foster inclusive facilitation approaches.</p> <p>On-going facilitation: Once the Cultural Safety Student Ambassadors have been established and trained, the next step is for the student ambassadors to facilitate a support group in their college. The student ambassadors will be supported in such an endeavour by the attendance of their mentor.</p> <p><b>Proposed Outcomes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting the health or welfare of students through enhanced cultural inclusion, awareness and safety.</li> <li>• Delivering cultural safety training to staff and students together to allow staff and students to understand cultural safety's complexity from each perspective. It is hoped that such insights will offer the opportunity to develop collaboratively constructed strategies of support for both students and staff in ensuring that cultural safety is upheld at Victoria University.</li> <li>• Delivering mentoring training which will enhance a select group of staff members to mentor students as leaders and to advise on university policies and procedures related to cultural safety and inclusion. The mentoring will increase the transparency of relevant procedures and policies to ensure they are enacted authentically within typical universities practices, particularly from a student perspective. Students need to understand their rights and responsibilities within a cultural safety framework.</li> <li>• Delivering facilitation training for select students to become cultural inclusion leaders and advocate for students' interests in relation to cultural inclusion and safety related policies and procedures. The training will provide opportunities to explore human interactions within a culturally safe dialogue and afford</li> </ul>	
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		<p>students to become cultural inclusion leaders within Victoria University and the Community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing Cultural Inclusion and Safety Support groups in each College of Victoria University to encourage an open dialogue about cultural inclusion, safety and to determine future directions for Victoria University. The support groups aim to create a safe space for students to come and discuss issues of culture within an ethnic, linguistic, religious, gender, sexuality or ability frame. Cultural inclusion and safety support groups offer the broader university community the potential to engage in dialogue about intersectionality, cultural inclusion and safety.</li> <li>• Bridges student and staff initiatives and concerns related to cultural inclusion and safety.</li> </ul>	
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<p><b>Mary-Rose McLaren</b></p>	<p><b>The Cocoon – student theatre at VU</b></p>	<p>A recent upgrade of the theatre space in Building N, Footscray Nicholson, has been undertaken. This is now a state of the art, performing arts facility. However, VU does not have a theatre group. Our project skills up students to take this space over in the wake of lockdown, and create original, unique theatre, music and multi-media performances for live audiences to enjoy. It will provide students with the opportunity to engage directly with the local and national community, showcase students talents, innovation and creativity; and further embed the university into the community of the West.</p> <p>We propose offering fortnightly improvisation and theatre-making sessions to students who express an interest, with the aim of developing regular public performances by a VU theatre company. This company will be run by students with our support. Our desire is that the voices of students determine the work that is done, and the structure and organisation of the group.</p> <p>We are both experienced theatre practitioners and work in the Diploma of Education Studies, where we guide students through the process of telling their stories through the practice of theatre. This project is aimed at students devising theatre and performing it, in its many shapes and forms.</p> <p>Theatre is an effective tool in developing communities and deep senses of belonging. Post-covid this seems particularly important: many of our students will be half way through their degrees before they meet their peers face to face. Other than 1B1 2020, they have never been on campus. Through the establishment of this group we aim to meet the immediate need for reorientation to university life and socialisation, as well as the longer term need of VU having a thriving theatrical community.</p> <p><b>Proposed Outcomes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is well-documented that theatre participation builds confidence, self-esteem, teamwork, sacrifice, a sense of achievement and a community connection. When we are in a play, we feel we are a part of a family. Most importantly, when appropriately framed, it fosters a healthy and respectful social environment. Theatre provides a safe and very enjoyable social space, with a positive and healthy atmosphere.</li> </ul>	<p><b>\$5000.00</b></p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By participating in the ongoing evolution of a VU company, students will develop many skills, such as communication, marketing, organisational concerns, legal and ethical frameworks, empathy for others and their stories, creations, and contributions.</li> <li>• It will also foster collaboration and community in a student-based environment with student-led activities and values. Because performances and the activities of the company/club will be governed by a democratically elected board of students, students will gain a sense of personal and collective responsibility, as well as a sense of power and participation in the university community.</li> <li>• Performances will be planned, decided upon, and produced by a body of students, with some guidance and encouragement from staff. By producing performances for the public, the community of student theatre-makers will establish a body of work and a method, reflective of the participating student practitioners that will evolve over time, but will remain an asset to those who have contributed. Ultimately, this initiative would also be an asset for the university as a whole.</li> </ul> <p>During this post-lockdown era being experienced throughout Australia, an initiative that encourages physical and real-life encounters will serve to foster much-needed human connection and a sense of togetherness. Further, this VU Company provides an opportunity for creative collaborations between staff and students that has the potential to bring us together and showcase the creative activities of university to the broader Australian arts community.</p>	
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<p><b>Leonie Nott</b></p>	<p><b>Deadly Careers</b></p>	<p>The Deadly Careers Project, a collaboration between VU Employ and Moondani Balluk aims to increase the engagement levels of VU's Indigenous students with tailored activities, events and information delivered through VU Employ that will enhance the employability of Indigenous students.</p> <p>The project also aims to further develop and enhance student's self-confidence, self-esteem and self-efficacy around their career aspirations. Enhancement of these three domains has been shown empirically to enhance employability.</p> <p>This will be achieved through the co- design and co-delivery of a range of culturally appropriate products, services and student events tailored to meet the unique needs of our Indigenous student cohort. These may include some or all of the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Career drop in service</li> <li>- Career and Employability Social Club</li> <li>-Targeted employability and career-focused events with Indigenous speakers and recruiters</li> <li>- Development of culturally appropriate resources such as lists of indigenous friendly employers</li> <li>- Mini careers expo</li> </ul> <p>The Deadly Careers Project aims to remove potential and perceived cultural barriers that Indigenous VU students may experience preventing them from engaging with VU Employ and thereby opportunities to enhance their employability.</p> <p>The employment of an Indigenous student to act as a link and conduit to the student cohort is key to the success of the project. In addition to support from Moondani Balluk the student will be supervised and supported by a qualified and experienced Careers Consultant from VU Employ who has extensive experience in working with Indigenous students in a dual-sector setting.</p> <p><b>Proposed Outcomes:</b></p> <p>This project is completely focused on helping Indigenous students obtain employment or advice on careers. In doing so it is envisaged that project outcomes for Indigenous students will lead to:</p>	<p><b>\$9395.00</b></p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved student knowledge of career options, paths and job application processes.</li> <li>• Enhanced levels of students self-perceived employability The production of culturally appropriate careers and employability resources</li> <li>• Enhanced student self-confidence, self-esteem and self-efficacy The provision of fun, safe and informative careers and employability social events, bringing together the indigenous student cohort, building connections between them and facilitating the provision of peer support to each other</li> <li>• Provide a valuable employment opportunity and work experience to an Indigenous student enhancing their individual employability</li> <li>• Improved cultural capital in the VU Employ team</li> </ul>	
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Nardoo Wai	VU Edible Garden	<p>This project proposes to establish an edible garden on the Footscray Park campus that can provide food as well as other benefits for students. The proposed edible garden will take over the SLUGG Garden outside Building E in Footscray Park Campus, as SLUGG is no longer active and has not maintained this space in recent years. However their set up from the past has made this space an ideal location to launch the Edible Garden Project, as the existing installations are reusable with some repair/ maintenance or minor modification. In addition, the team will focus on innovative sustainable systems such as vertical farming and hydroponics to increase production and improve water &amp; energy efficiency.</p> <p>An edible garden can provide students with health and therapeutic benefits, including increased wellbeing and connectedness to the university community. It will also raise student awareness of Planetary Health and take actions to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p> <p>The garden will produce nutrient-dense fresh food for students. Depending on the seasons, it can vary between growing vegetables, herbs, fruits, berries, etc. A range of natural and organic food ingredients can be provided, along with cooking workshops, will motivate students to try different recipes and improve their cooking skills. Growing food in the garden allows students to observe and witness the plant growth process from sowing to harvesting. Not only will they learn more about the plants in terms of the species characteristic, growing condition, and maturity level, it is also a great chance to appreciate the life cycle of other species and be thankful to nature.</p> <p>The physical and mental health benefits of planting and gardening have been well recognized and documented by the Department of Health of Victoria State Government in Better Health Channel. The garden will also provide a space for creative and artistic gardening activities to improve student's health and wellbeing. These activities will include workshops such as small-scale gardens for apartments, worm composting and recycling that promote Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (3Rs); The use of organic waste to create fertilizer/ pesticide to promote Cradle-to-Cradle living.</p>	\$3455.56
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		<p>This project will also align with the Green Our City Strategic Action Plan initiated by the City of Melbourne, the edible garden as a multifunctional green living lab that will provide a foundation for future research opportunity, by obtaining valuable information and data that attract the city councils and other external stakeholders to develop partnership.</p> <p><b>Proposed Outcomes:</b></p> <p>This Project will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Provide nutrient-dense fresh food for students.</li> <li>2) Provide education to students about agriculture, cooking nutritiously, and food production and to grow the plant at home by themselves.</li> <li>3) Creates a multifunctional community platform for students and staffs from different disciplines and backgrounds to interact and exchange innovative sustainable ideas.</li> <li>4) Improve students and staffs physical and mental health through plants and garden related activities that are associated with therapeutic and recreational benefits.</li> <li>5) Raise the awareness on planetary health and Sustainable Development Goals and enhance sustainable concepts to the community.</li> </ol>	
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<b>Daniel Jaap</b>	<b>Plastic Solutions Project</b>	<p>According to the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics report, Australians generated 1.2 million tonnes of plastic waste in FY18/19. Only 9% of this waste is recycled, the rest goes to landfill or end up in our parks, rivers and oceans. At Victoria University, waste from recycle bins goes directly to landfill instead of going to recycling centres. Realising this plastic waste problem, a group of students have developed the Plastic Solution Project (PSP) to overcome the problem and contribute to the University's commitment to Planetary Health.</p> <p>PSP aims to deliver a streamlined, in house processing method for recycling and repurposing plastics on campus. This will be achieved by students utilising key equipment: a shredder, (already built), an extruder, and some moulds. The project aims to process up to 250KG of plastic a week, which will be sourced from a variety of places including Cafes and other locations on campus, The Royal Melbourne Hospital, and students own homes</p> <p>The plastic will be repurposed into a selection of products, including wall clocks, worm farms, plastic bricks, garden beds and more. Students will be doing all the repurposing themselves, in a dedicated space on campus. It is hoped that revenue generated from the sale of these products will be able to be reinvested back into infrastructure that would allow for a higher rate of processing. Currently, PSP is using household equipment (ovens, baking trays as moulds and clamps) to process the plastic at a slow pace. Funds from the SSAF grant will be used to purchase necessary equipment to accelerate the processing, enabling much more impact to be achieved.</p> <p>PSP has been a vehicle for students to act on their strong moral purpose to make the university community better by repurposing plastic waste that would otherwise end up in landfill and to help protect the environment. Students have used PSP as a platform to inform, raise awareness and educate the community about the plastic waste problem. PSP was showcased at the last Vice Chancellors Lecture Series on Planetary Health and was the winner of last year's VU Student Leadership Awards in the Student Innovation category.</p>	<b>\$8000.00</b>
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		<p><b>Proposed Outcomes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participating in this small to medium scale plastic repurposing operation will empower students to facilitate positive change in the world. It will help develop technical, entrepreneurial and communication skills, as well as a multitude of soft skills. It will allow students to network and make friendships with other students outside of their study discipline</li> <li>• Any student will be able to participate in the repurposing process, getting hands-on experience in our workspace. This will give them the opportunity to create things using recycled products. Students will also gain insight and knowledge about the plastic lifecycle and crucial issues regarding planetary health. This also includes knowledge about the different plastic categories and how to identify them.</li> <li>• By repurposing a lot of campus plastic, it will reduce the amount of waste on campus. Some of the products that are repurposed will be used/displayed on campus to help motivate other students as to how easy it can be to repurpose waste.</li> </ul>	
<b>Denver Gomez</b>	<b>Track Ready Kit - Victoria University Motorsport</b>	<p>Victoria University Motorsport (VUM) is a well-established club operating at VU's Footscray Park campus since 2005. We are an inclusive club that promotes collaboration between students from the different colleges within VU.</p> <p>The goal of the club is to provide hands-on and authentic experience to VU students by participating in an internationally recognised program known as Formula SAE (FSAE). Being internationally recognized, the FSAE program assists students in obtaining employment after completing their degree, with some employers deeming it essential in their selection criteria. The FSAE program challenges students to design and build a single seat race car to compete in an annual, inter-university event hosted by the Society of Automotive Engineers in December. This requires students to put into practice a number of skills related to engineering</p>	<b>\$7250.00</b>

		<p>design, team management, project planning, manufacturing, time management, business management and risk and safety management.</p> <p>The annual event is free to the public and is well attended. It typically attracts eight international university teams and 20 domestic university teams, giving VU students the opportunity to learn and grow from a large and diverse group of like-minded students. It is also regularly attended by major companies in the automotive space including, but not limited to, Ford, Toyota and the RACV. This provides great exposure for the participating students and their universities.</p> <p>For VUM to be able to participate in the FSAE event, it is essential that we have the appropriate equipment, some of which VUM is not currently able to afford. We are applying for the SSAF student initiative grant so we can provide our team with essential equipment for race day and beyond. Specifically, the FSAE competition requires us to have multiple sets of tyres and wheel-rims that are compliant and suit the competitions performance requirements. We currently have a single set of damaged rims and a single set of old tyres (from 10 years ago). Both the wheel-rims and tyres we have are considered unsafe to use in a racing event. As such, to ensure that we can safely participate in the competition we require two sets of tyres and two sets of wheel-rims. In addition, we require spare components and consumable items which will enable us to safely participate in each of the events. The total cost for the required components is \$7,250.</p> <p><b>Proposed Outcomes:</b> VUM's FSAE project aligns with the SSAF ranking system in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reach and Impact - Working with VUM is an invaluable and enjoyable experience. It creates an everlasting relationship between the team and its former members who regularly return to VU. The experience has also enabled a number of students to earn employment with leaders in engineering such as Aston Martin, Ford, Holden, Toyota, QANTAS, Rio Tinto and Caterpillar to name a few. Participating in the 2021 FSAE event will enable even greater opportunities.</li> <li>• The VUM program has earned attention of the College of</li> </ul>	
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		<p>Engineering and Science where it has become an integral part of the course work. In addition, participation in VUM is now formally recognised as a VU Extra Transcript activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The race car is a fantastic tool for promoting VU and the employment ready skills of its students. VUM is a regular participant at Open Day and other events where the race car commands attention as a showcase of student achievement.</li> <li>• Collaboration Building a race car presents a dynamic range of problems which require many minds to come together to solve. The team has built rapport with local businesses who have supported us in solving a number of these problems. VUM has also fostered a strong bond with alumni who provide its members access to services, equipment, and mentorship. Participating in the FSAE competition will enable VUM students to continue their collaboration efforts by allowing them to meet with their peers from other institutions.</li> <li>• Diversity - Our club has a cross-section of students from a broad socio-economic background who have not previously had the opportunity to participate in motorsports. Investing in this project, enables VUM to provide a means for any student to participate in the exciting world of motorsport.</li> </ul>	
<b>Ruwangi Fernando</b>	<b>VUPA Buddy Program – Speed Networking</b>	<p>SSAF Grant funding is sought to a buddy program for all postgraduate students. The program allows new (commenced in 2020 and after) postgrad students with a 'buddy', an existing senior postgrad student whom from the same study course/ research area, country of origin, native language, queer/queer ally status etc.</p> <p>Postgraduates participating in the program report an easier transition to study in Australia and greater desire to stay in their studies. They find social networks, accommodation and support more readily, and enjoy the student experience more readily. The program aims to increase support for all postgrads and who, often experience less support and connection, and more barriers to integration.</p>	<b>\$2000.00</b>

		<p>This program supports broader student retention objectives. Buddies receive valuable experience volunteering, feel that their knowledge and personal experience is valued, and are recognised with a certificate and experience they can list on job applications. The cohort is planned as 50 postgraduate students commenced after semester 1 2020 and 50 buddies, existing senior postgraduate students.</p> <p><b>Proposed Outcomes:</b> This unique program will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improves student retention – Due to the pandemic students often experience difficulties adjusting to the realities of studying and for some it's a new country, no matter how much preparation they have undertaken beforehand and this difficulty fitting in and adjusting can reduce their academic performance and commitment to completing studies. This is even more so for postgraduate students. Connecting in with one on one support can be the difference between a successful transition and withdrawal.</li> <li>• Fosters a greater sense of community – this program allows students to meet other students (and those students networks) that they may not have necessarily met otherwise. Students are often best placed to help each other as they have recently experienced many of the difficulties in commencing their postgraduate studies and for some settling in a new country and bring a lot of tacit knowledge about cultural norms, new concepts and support networks for queer students.</li> <li>• Assists existing students who volunteer to be a buddy gain valuable experience and a certificate of completion, useful for job applications</li> </ul>	
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59,600.56</b>