

PARTNER SCHOOLS PROGRAM 2021

Overview of the program

The Science of Learning Research Centre (SLRC) Partner Schools Program is a collaborative professional learning and research-practice partnership opportunity for teachers and school leaders. Working directly with researchers from the SLRC and The University of Queensland (UQ), participating schools engage with relevant contemporary research on the science of learning (neuroscience, education, psychology) as part of a year-long process of inquiry into a school-identified phenomenon. Individually or in small clusters, school research teams explore ways that the research can apply in their individual school context to inform practice and contribute to the school improvement focus. School teams develop capabilities in the science of learning, research design, implementation, evaluation and research communication, with project findings informing the SLRC research agenda. Strategies for sustaining and scaling are also developed, and ongoing relationships between educators and researchers formed.

Current and past projects with schools include phenomenon such as Effective Learning Strategies, Student Wellbeing, Teacher Wellbeing, Blended Learning, Engagement, Motivation, Learning Regulation, Feedback, and more.

This process may support participants who are compiling a portfolio for Highly Effective and Lead Teacher certification.

Aims

The SLRC Partner Schools Program aims to overcome the barriers between research and practice by:

- Providing educators with access to and understanding of meaningful, relevant research in the science of learning;
- Establishing strong professional networks and collaborations between researchers and educators that can last beyond the life of the project;
- Developing teacher capability in critically evaluating, understanding, and engaging with quality research and evidence (including own professional practice-based evidence) relevant to their school context and needs;
- Developing teacher capability in identifying, leading, and evaluating evidence-informed practices in the classroom or broader school context.

Outline of the Program Sessions

(Dates are estimates but may vary according to individual schools needs and locations)

1. Establish a team of approx. 5-8 curious staff (teachers and leaders)
2. Respond to the criteria in the EOI and return to Dr Stephanie MacMahon s.macmahon1@uq.edu.au
3. Collaborative session 1: 2 to 3-hour planning with SLRC team
4. Collaborative session 2: 2-Day PD with SLRC team, other schools and researchers (Term 1)
5. Collaborative session 3 – Update on progress: Mid-Term 2
6. Collaborative session 4 – Update on progress: Term 3
7. Individual school collaborative session to analyse and interpret data – at a time relevant to the individual school project
8. Showcase of Projects – Term 4

All school teams are provided with ongoing online and/ or face-to-face support by the SLRC Partner Schools Team. They also have the opportunity to be involved in other SLRC and UQ events and initiatives.

Program Cost:

The inclusive cost of the program starts from \$8000 per school for schools meeting in clusters. This cost includes all ongoing professional learning and support for all members of the school research team, attendance for the whole team at all sessions, relevant resources and literature, and the SLRC Partner Schools Handbook. Please contact Dr Stephanie MacMahon s.macmahon1@uq.edu.au for more details.

Reflections on past collaborations:

Successful project teams involved in the past have included the following characteristics:

- a collaborative team approach, with participants including school leaders and teachers;
- clearly articulated team roles (developed during the first session) and a commitment to the sessions as outlined on the project overview;
- positive dispositions towards learning with and from one another, from the broader partnership, and from the process.

“Excellent chance to connect with the research that’s happening out there in the University.”

“...demystified the research process”

“...deepened my professional learning on educational research and evidence-based practice in schools and has contributed to my motivation to continue to embed evidence-based pedagogy and practice in my workplace as a teacher”.

Session Overview for 2021

SESSION DETAILS	SESSION LENGTH & DATE	DELIVERY MODE	CONTENT TO BE COVERED
SESSION 1: Cluster or Individual School Meeting	2-3 hours Early Term 1, 2021	Face-to-Face or Video Call (if outside SEQ)	An introduction to the Science of Learning Professional Reflections and Planning: Learning with and from others Project planning An introduction to Research Design and methodology
SESSION 2: 2-Day Professional Learning	2 Consecutive Days February-March 2021	Face-to-face Onsite at UQ for SE QLD schools Regional visit if cluster of schools	Project brainstorm Development of research questions & methodology Invited researcher presentation on the science of learning and links to practice Exploration of relevant literature Research design and development of research pitch Share and peer-review research pitches
Session 3	1-2 Hours Term 2	Face-to-Face or Video Call (if outside SEQ)	Project updates, Professional Learning & Discussion
Session 4	1-2 Hours Term 3	Face-to-Face or Video Call (if outside SEQ)	Project updates, Professional Learning & Discussion Communicating research
Session 5 Individual school data analysis	1-2 Hours As required by school	Face-to-Face or Video Call (if outside SEQ)	Schools share their data with the team Assistance with analysis, interpretation
Session 6 Showcase Term 4		In-person or may be video recorded for online conference	15-minute presentations on projects Reflections, questions, implications
Ongoing online support	Ongoing	Online	Individual school support as required
Access to all Supporting Resources	Ongoing	Online	
Professional Networking opportunities with UQ Researchers	Ongoing even beyond the life of the project	Face-to-face and Online	

