2020 Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) Grant Program Recipients

Student Engagement and Peer Programs, Student Success

Project Title	Project Leader and Course/Faculty	Project Description	Amount Funded
#IsoHacks video series	Michelle J, University Services (Academic Services)	#IsoHacks is a series of co-created videos targeted at supporting student wellbeing and improving engagement both with each other and the university. The videos will feature UoM alumni comedians and students, with the first series of videos focussing on tips or 'hacks' for students in isolation. As the repercussions of COVID19 continue throughout the year, the 'hacks' will evolve to tap into current challenges such as maintaining social connections, awareness of mental health concerns and transitioning back to campus. They will be co-created with students and edited together as periodic mash ups for distribution on social media.	$14,648
Healthy Body, Healthy Mind	Kamol K, Doctor of Medicine	The Healthy Eating and Nutrition Society (HENS): Healthy Body, Healthy Mind project aims to promote healthy eating and interest in nutrition within the university. The main components of all events revolve around education, accessibility, sustainability, and inclusivity. There will be a fortnightly Free Food Workshop, that invites students to design their own free balanced meal. Educational seminars and career workshops, endorsed by food/nutrition lecturers of Unimelb, will also be available for all students. There will also be social events such as trivia nights, excursions, and volunteering opportunities to further engage students.	$7,880
Psychological wellbeing workshops for BioSciences postgraduate (Honours, Masters and Graduate Research) students	Laura C, Doctorate of Philsophy	The aim of this project is to improve student wellbeing by funding a series of invaluable workshops designed specifically for management of mental health issues that can impact research progression within the graduate student body. This is extremely important now given the impacts of COVID-19. Many students are unable to undertake research in laboratories or fieldwork, resulting in significant stress and anxiety about thesis completion and uncertainty over future job prospects. It will provide tools for maintaining good mental health during isolation, as managing progress expectations are critical.	$3,000
Melbourne University Biomedicine Students' Orchestra (MUBSO)	Simone G, Bachelor of Biomedicine	The Melbourne University Biomedicine Students' Orchestra (MUBSO) will collaborate with the University of Melbourne Medical Students' Society Orchestra (UMMSSO). Both orchestras have similar aims and hold similar events, and as a result have decided to merge. The orchestra is for students from all backgrounds and faculties of the University of Melbourne, united by a love of music and passion for charity.	$5,000

Experimental Collaborations Initiative	Amanda W, Fine Arts and Music	This project will facilitate a creative development grant, and support workshop program, that encourages cross-discipline collaboration, community building, and professional development within the student body of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music. The initiative will fund student-led creative projects and present a series of online workshops and professional development sessions that connect students with industry professionals and their peers. The project aims to encourage innovative approaches to collaborative artmaking that generate new community connections and modes of skill sharing during and beyond social distancing protocols. Funds will facilitate a creative grant scheme, student workshop costs, promotions, and administration fees.	$20,000
Solidarity in diversity: Highlighting marginal voices in academia, practice and society.	Francisca (Franka) V, Doctor of Philosophy (Art)	We propose a three-day conference, 'Solidarity in Diversity', convened by the African Studies Group (ASG) of the University of Melbourne (https://africanstudiesgroup.com.au/), to be held tentatively on 24-26 February 2021. The conference will bring together postgraduate students from the University of Melbourne, and other universities across Australia. The aim of the conference is to create a platform where the voices of, and knowledge creation by, people of African descent, and people from other marginalised groups and communities are highlighted in academic discourses at the University of Melbourne. Funds will be spent on catering, communication, and design and printing of conference materials.	$19,751
LGBTIQA+ Ally Training for Students	Dr Megan S, Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences	The Pride in Action Network (PiAN) plans to deliver an online module to UoM students focussed on LGBTIQA+ Allyship. The module will provide a knowledge and skill framework for all enrolled students to become active allies to the LGBTIQA+ community as peers, professionals and emerging leaders. The online learning platform will provide similar content to current staff training opportunities, while embedding student-focused, accessible and evaluative content delivery. The module will be rolled out initially to existing PiAN members for appropriate evaluation leading to expansion, where it can be embedded via existing LMS channels by teaching, research and professional staff.	$19,627
Upcycling Engineering Students	Jeff K, Bachelor of Science (Electrical Systems) with concurrent Diploma in Computing	Melbourne University Electrical Engineering Club (MUEEC) is a student society with the primary goal of supporting engineers through their education with the Melbourne School of Engineering (MSE). MUEEC aims to enrich the MSE student experience by focusing on upcycling. Upcycling means creative rejuvenation and transformation to add value, and we aim to bring creative value to the existing student experience by focusing on three areas: developing engineering upcycling skills (through a new themed hackathon and repair café), supporting students' academic and professional development by completely reworking old events, and fun social competitions to creatively build upon engineers teamwork skills.	$10,000
Manufacture of Free Prosthetics	Kayvan G, Doctor of Medicine	This project stemmed from working on a prosthetic hand project with some colleagues while being exposed to and enamoured by 'e-NABLE,' a global collective of 3D printing enthusiasts and professionals who design and synthesise custom prosthetics free of charge for the disabled, especially children. Given their lack of formalised presence in Australia, 'Enable Prosthetics Melbourne' was recently	$1,490

		established as being affiliated with the University of Melbourne, where collaboration between students of Engineering and Medicine to undertake e-NABLE's mission of providing high quality 3D-printed prostheses free of charge was encouraged.	
Promoting counselling services to international students using bilingual staff	Rachna M, GSA	This project will provide more information about accessible mental health services and benefits of counselling services to international graduate students, using bilingual methodology and promote the development of using bilingual counsellors at the University of Melbourne or appropriate alternate services based on the type and needs of the students. This project will also explore the use of technological support to offer counselling services for students who are unable to travel to Australia from their home country during COVID 19 ban. The project will also provide 4 group sessions in different languages on supporting mental health and wellbeing.	$20,000
Art in Science Competition	Michiko M, Science	Students will have the opportunity to post their original artwork for display online. Artwork will be focused on or inspired by content of School of BioSciences subjects and can use any artistic medium. The plan is for students to submit their artwork, with a title and a description. Staff and students in the School of BioSciences will be able to view entries and comment on Canvas. Funds will be used for the competition prize pool, and to print posters of the most popular entries for display in School of BioSciences teaching spaces.	$1,550
Indigenous Health PhD International Academic Engagement Program	Warwick P, Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences	The Melbourne Poche Centre for Indigenous Health is leading a project to ensure its Indigenous research students have the ability to enhance their global mobility during their research degree. With formal programs of engagement being established between the University of Auckland and the University of Toronto, the Poche Centre is looking for additional resources to support research students to include an international residency that will enhance their studies, thus being able to access international scholars in Indigenous health, share knowledge and participate in cultural exchange.	$20,000
Effective Digital Storytelling for Graduate Researchers	Jennifer W, University Services (Academic Services)	Digital storytelling is a powerful way to communicate research and engage broad audiences. This project will develop graduate researchers' skills in creating high quality, engaging research stories, video abstracts and digital explainers for employers, funders, collaborators, media and the public. The grant will fund the development of a series of on-demand 'how-to' videos on developing research narratives and understanding production principles to create engaging videos; run online training to develop plain language and visual communication skills; and assist with online GR community-building. The sustainable project format supports delivery regardless of whether the campus is open or not.	$7,100
Talking Hunger: Understanding food insecurity on campus	Gyorgy S, Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences	A significant proportion of university students in Australia experience food insecurity, although the extent and nature of this problem at the University of Melbourne is not well understood. Through participatory research, this project aims to explore this issue and commence a conversation within the University about student food insecurity. Student participants will be paid and trained to interview other students about their experiences of food insecurity, and to co-design proposals to alleviate this problem. A short podcast and a short report will be	$19,871

		produced, aiming to contribute to the development of University policies and strategies to address food insecurity.	
Melbourne Arts Journal 2020	Carly S, Bachelor of Arts	The Melbourne Arts Journal is a student-run Journal dedicated to publishing the academic work of undergraduate Arts students at a professional level. 2020 is a transition year: rather than producing a publication, time will be dedicated to conduct widespread recruitment, offer payment and professional development opportunities to incoming editors, and implement systems that align the publication more closely with the University's equity and diversity goals. The SSAF Grant will be a one-off injection which will allow the Journal to address these problems, move towards a sustainable decentralised power structure, and become more accessible and transparent.	$5,000
iMagine podcast	Kanghui Y, Master of Arts and Cultural Management	The mental health of University students has been an increasingly important issue, especially given the current situation, especially our international students who face particularly complex challenges. In order to improve the students' health and wellbeing, iMagine aims to provide an additional self-care resource for our students, by producing a podcast series informed by music therapy techniques such as music and imagery. This podcast will feature diverse music styles and languages to provide a self-care resource that students can easily relate to and engage with. The SSAF grant will assist iMagine in supporting its staff in the process of production and reach a wider audience.	$15,420
Near-Peer Wellbeing Program Pilot	Dr Skye K, Master of Psychiatry	Near-peer mentorship is an established form of wellbeing support. In light of the recent loss of one of our student colleagues to suicide, it is crucial that there are increased opportunities for medical students to seek support. This pilot delivers near-peer mentoring to MD3 students at the St Vincent's Clinical School and involves delivery of formal and informal wellbeing opportunities facilitated by a near-peer registrar. Specifically, this program delivers opportunities for reflection and debriefing of clinical scenarios, professional and personal support, informal remediation, networking, and career advice.	$2,500
Mortality Meet Up: UniMelb Death Café	Samuel H, PhD, School of Culture and Communication	These volunteer-run group cafes help participants to discuss death in a supportive environment meant to normalise a difficult topic. Seeking to remove the morbidity and taboo that surround conversations on dying and mortality, this model has spread quickly across the globe. While these groups are sometimes facilitated by a psychologist, they are not grief or counselling sessions, but a chance for community members to come together, share food and stories, get advice, and discuss something that's so often pushed out of sight. This will be all the more important for students and staff in light of the pandemic.	$4,087
The Beginner's Guide to Leadership	Gemma M, Doctor of Philosophy (MDHS)	Leadership is an important skill for graduate researchers (GRs), but often GRs lack any formal leadership training. Many leadership programs are limited in participant numbers due to program length and intensive resource requirements. There is significant scope for a program that provides leadership basics to a wide range of GRs, e.g. those in their first leadership position, or students intending to apply for these roles. We propose to train a large group of GRs across the Parkville precinct in an	$4,973

		engaging, targeted, and specific Beginner's Guide to Leadership foundation program.	
Supporting the development of a Biotech student community	Julia H, Science	The aim of this project is to provide a foundation for the Biotech student cohort to establish a cohort- based student club. Most members would be from the 2-year Master of Biotech program. This program cohort is largely international and has a discipline focus that is quite distinct from other student cohorts within the school of Biosciences. Because of this, Biotech students are underrepresented from school events, causing feelings of isolation.	$1,500

Total number of projects funded: 20

Total Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) Grant Program funds awarded in 2020:
$203,397.73

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