

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

# **SCIENCE UNION**

**BEST FACSOC  
APPLICATION  
2020**



# COMMITMENT

*Demonstrated a commitment to be involved with the Guild, including the Education Council and bodies within the University, including but not limited to other clubs, Faculty Societies and University-run services.*

## THE EDUCATION COUNCIL

In 2020, Science Union was privileged to continue being an **active member** of the **UWA Student Guild Education Council**. Science Union as a Faculty Society is dedicated to **improving the educational experience** at UWA. This is reflected by our ongoing excellent attendance at Education Council meetings, both online and in-person, and the comprehensive updates provided within our monthly reports. At Education Council meetings, Science Union **actively contributes** to discussions and listens to the educational issues being raised, **providing advice and feedback** where necessary to ensure all students studying under the Faculty of Science are benefitted by the outcomes.

The Education Council also acts as a communicative channel for Science Union, as a Guild-affiliated Faculty Society, to **support and participate** in initiatives being implemented by the UWA Student Guild. Examples include:

- Participating in **Ed Week** with **Create** and **Converse**, an initiative enabling students to produce study plans and vision boards to complement their academic vision. Experienced students also provided first years, who missed out on first semester, guidance and support with their studies.
- Collaborating with the Education Council, **UWA Education Action Network** and other Faculty Societies in the **Hands Off Our Education campaign**, which opposes the fee hikes and university defunding.
- Participating in the National Union of Students **'Save Our Students'** campaign alongside the Education Council to fight for student support during COVID-19.

Our affiliation with the Education Council is extremely beneficial, as it has enabled us to effectively use our platform as a Faculty Society to **advocate for science students** by addressing educational issues impacting the student experience. The financial support we received from the Education Council also allowed us to organise innovative projects that manifested our visions for the club.

## UWA STUDENT GUILD

In 2020, our goals were to organise events that **commemorated Guild weeks** and **collaborate with Guild departments**. This year, we engaged in:

- **Ed Week - Create and Converse**, as aforementioned, provided students with an opportunity to solidify their academic goals for the semester and seek advice from other science students.
- **Women's Week** - We ran our annual **Women in Science Breakfast**, in collaboration with the **Women's Department**, celebrated the achievements of women in STEM, addressed gender inequalities in academia, and connected successful female scientists to aspiring students.
- **Fringe Week** - We ran a **'Tote Bag Tuesday'** workshop in collaboration with **FABSOC** and the **Public Affairs Council**, enabling students to personalise their own tote bags in support of charity whilst celebrating art and community.
- **Enviro Week - EnviroFest**, organised alongside the Environment Department, aimed to educate students on eco-friendly behaviour and recycling. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the event was cancelled.
- **Pride Week - We celebrated LGBTQIA+ individuals** who made significant breakthroughs in STEM through infographics that were posted on our social media platforms.
- **Welfare Week** - A collaboration with the Welfare Department and Public Affairs Council to bring **Digital Speed Friending**, which ensured students **stayed connected** with one another during isolation.
- **Volunteer Week** - We hosted our staple **'Lovin from the Oven' volunteer event**, which saw volunteers producing baked goods for the children at the **Ronald McDonald House**.

Our commitment to the Guild is further demonstrated in our:

- Working relationship with **Guild Micro-Volunteering**, where multiple volunteering sessions were held to create "Thank You" cards for healthcare workers during quarantine. Students received **accredited volunteering hours**.
- Participation in campaigns, including **Save Our Students** and **Hands Off Our Education**, alongside the Student Guild to advocate for science students in the face of COVID-19 and fee hikes.
- Involvement with the **Welfare Department's StreetSmart fundraiser**, raising almost \$500 to combat homelessness - the most funds raised by any participating faculty society.

- Strong presence at **O-Day and club carnivals**, exhibiting the vibrancy of both Science Union and UWA's campus culture to all students.
- Working relationship with the **International Students' Department** and Council to ensure international science students are sufficiently represented and supported.
- Upcoming annual **collaborative Gala with the Postgraduate Students' Association** to strengthen the connection between the undergraduate and postgraduate cohorts.
- Excellent attendance at SOC meetings to maintain relationships with other student clubs and the **Societies Council**.

## CLUBS AND FACULTY SOCIETIES

One of Science Union's defining strengths is our **frequent collaborations** with other student clubs. We continue to demonstrate this capability by supporting our subsidiary science clubs in our shared vision to **represent students from all STEM fields**. This year, we organised:

- The annual **National Science Week Festival** with **CHeMnBiO, Zoology, University Physics Society, PHAC, Woolnough, PsySoc**, and the **Health Students' Society** to showcase STEM.
- The **'Creating Conspiracies'** workshop with **Science Communication Society**, which aimed to equip students with science communication skills.
- A number of major-specific **study nights**, both **online and on campus**, in collaboration with relevant science clubs.
- A series of **engaging isolation competitions** to maintain a sense of community during quarantine.

Science Union is also committed to collaborating with societies that fall outside of science to promote **inclusivity and connection** at UWA. For example, in celebration of **Fringe Week** we organised a **DIY Tote Bag workshop** alongside **FABSOC, Fresher Social Outreach** with **Leisure, Sober?**, and other faculty societies for first-year orientation, a **LinkedIn portrait session** with **UWA Photography Club**, and an upcoming **online international student networking event** with the **Indonesian student societies AIPSSA and INDOSS** to reconnect those affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

We have maintained strong relationships with numerous Faculty Societies including **ECOMS, Arts Union, UEC, MSS, HSS, ALVASOC, BPhil, Blackstone Society, and WAMSS**. Collaborative events include **The Great Pubcrawl** at the beginning of first semester, **FacSoc Survivor, Medical Entry Panel Discussion, Quarantine Yoga**, and **Courtyard Show** to name a few. This close working relationship is further demonstrated in the **Science Presidents' Forum**, which is a platform used to communicate ideas and support amongst the science faculty societies and subsidiary clubs.

## UNIVERSITY RUN SERVICES

Science Union has continued our partnership with the **Barry J Marshall Science Library manager and librarians**, meeting regularly to discuss student feedback on the library and its services. For example, the librarians advertised their resources in our **First-Year Orientation Handbook** and have collaborated with us in our upcoming **Excel and EndNote skill workshops**.

Throughout the year, we have also collaborated with the **Careers and Employability Centre** on multiple seminars that showcased the various career pathways that arise from STEM.

Science Union has also been granted the opportunity to once again sit on the **Student Consultative Council**, which is an effective platform for **advocating for science students at a higher level**. In these meetings, we address the science student perspective to university executives and discuss educational issues pertaining to the science cohort to **improve the student experience**.

## SUMMARY OF SCIENCE UNION'S COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS WITH UNIVERSITY BODIES

- In semester one, Science Union ran an online information evening on how to write a **psychology lab report** in collaboration with **PsySoc**. **PsySoc** provided us with experienced psychology majors whilst we facilitated the event and increased engagement through streaming to our social media. Science Union also collaborated with **PsySoc** for the **Psychology Fair** by preparing a stall and organising a Psychology themed challenge for students to participate in. Science Union also provided the opportunity for Psychology students to ask questions about our Faculty Society and studying under the Bachelor of Science at UWA.
- We collaborated with the **Western Australian Medical Students' Society (WAMMS)** to run a brand-new initiative: **Journey to Becoming a Doctor Panel Discussion**. This featured current from UWA medical students and doctors, sharing their personal experiences and knowledge with undergraduate students with aspirations for postgrad medicine.

- Science Union collaborated with **UWA Library** to expose and educate university students on the **StudySmarter** resources available to provide them with support for their studies.
- During **National Science Week**, we collaborated with: **CHeMnBiO**, the **Physiology and Anatomy Club (PHAC)**, **PESA**, **PsySoc**, **Zoology club**, the **Health Student's Society (HSS)**, the **University Physics Society (UPS)** and **Woolnough Society**. Following the theme of 'deep blue,' we educated students about pollution and ocean conservation, in order to inspire participants to make more sustainable lifestyle choices given the current environmental circumstances. The National Science Week Festival also aimed to **inform participants of the current scientific developments within different fields of science**, in order to encourage students to think critically about future research that may be undertaken.
- Throughout the year, Science Union has run a series of study nights in collaboration with relevant clubs, such as **CHeMnBio**, **PHAC** and **PsySoc**, in popular units that many science students take. Science Union has worked hard towards improving the way study content was delivered, as well as providing **inclusive food options** to cater for all dietary requirements. In Semester One, we held **online study nights** in order to ensure students could receive high quality support during COVID-19. We accommodated for this in semester 2, ensuring all students were considered by providing both **face-to-face and online live streamed** access to study nights. Through this, Science Union effectively engaged with students and successfully assisted in preparing for successful completion of their units.
- On 23rd of September, the external affairs portfolio is running a **Science Communication Workshop** with the **Science Communication Society**, a new post-graduate, Guild-affiliated club. This event is a **new initiative** that specifically engages with smaller clubs and in more niche areas of study. This event invites PhD students in science communication to run a workshop-style event that will cover speaking, listening, writing and reading aspects of science communication. This will provide students with the skills to **understand scientific papers** and synthesise this information to varying levels of science knowledge.
- The **Science President's Forum** is a group founded by Science Union composed of representatives from each science subsidiary and faculty societies. Meetings are facilitated within the group to expedite collaboration events within all the Science clubs at UWA. In 2020, this group has been utilised to run our **collaborative study nights** and other events. Additionally, this group allowed us to run an informal **SPG writing afternoon** which invited all Science SOC clubs to receive support from our treasurer and executive committees in writing SPGs.

# REPRESENTATION

*Represented students, maintained a strong relationship and made efforts to achieve positive education outcomes on a Faculty level (and/or School level as appropriate).*

## POSITIVE EDUCATION OUTCOMES

### FIRST-YEAR HANDBOOK

Each year Science Union publishes a guidebook featuring relevant information about Science Union as a Faculty Society and our degree-specific subsidiary clubs, an introduction to the Guild and the various departments representing students. This includes insight into the **UWA Medical Centre** and the multiple **university support services** available for students. Physical copies of the handbook were handed out at **ODAY** and a **QR code** was created in order to allow students to access an **environmentally conscious online version**. This year, the guidebook covered the most diverse ranges of services, proving useful to first-year students and returning students alike.

### NEWSLETTER

Science Union sent out a **biweekly newsletter** to all of our 2020 members, who are mostly science students, that contained information about our events, other clubs' events and information for students. To make sure we were covering all aspects of student life at the appropriate times, Science Union was there to make sure students were **informed about the COVID-19 pandemic**. We included what we found to be the most important messages from both our **Vice Chancellor** and our **Prime Minister**. This has not only alleviated stress, but also created a **sense of community** with our members.

## FACULTY RELATIONSHIP

We engaged in an array of meetings in both casual and formal settings with the **Science Faculty**. Topics of discussion included **curriculum changes, student perspectives, and projects aimed to enhance student education and experience**. The Faculty of Science has consistently expressed the importance of having a **student voice** on their committee. This opportunity has strengthened both our representation of science students and our relationship with the Faculty. Science Union currently sits on **multiple faculty committees**:

- **Community and Engagement Committee** – Informs us of any projects that involve engaging the wider community. Science Union worked to obtain a seat on this committee this year.
- **Internationalisation Advisory and Coordination Group** – Seeks student opinion to improve recruitment and brand awareness, and organisation of international initiatives including **scholarships** and PhD programs.
- **Gender Equity and Inclusion Committee** – Ensures **maximum representation of women**, members of the **LGBTQIA+ community** and students from **all cultural backgrounds** studying science at UWA
- **Education Committee** – Discussions invite student feedback regarding topics pertaining to science education, including but not limited to curriculum and assessment adjustments. We shared our **Science Education Feedback Form** with faculty members of this committee to address feedback on units, assessments, course structure, and the **general student experience**. This committee is also an effective platform for us to obtain **industry and alumni contacts for our career-oriented events**.

This year, we forged an even closer working relationship with the **Student Experience Office**. Through regular meetings, Science Union assisted in organising multiple initiatives that aimed to enhance student engagement; **the Welcome Back video, Orientation Week, the first virtual Open Day, and the 'Science Exchange Series'** which consisted of **panel discussions with distinguished scientists** to highlight a few.

## SCHOOL LEVEL

Science encompasses a diverse range of disciplines. To ensure the student cohorts of all the science majors are represented, Science Union has **refined the positions of our Education Sub-Committee** to have a representative for each school. The restructure of this sub-committee creates a **more effective communication** channel between the club, science faculty, and students and staff from **all six science schools at UWA**.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Prior to semester one, we engaged in a collaboration with **UWA Study Tours**, a team which creates and maintains several strong relationships with international partnering schools and universities. UWA Study Tours provides individually tailored programs from all areas of study or groups of students with varying needs. This group is known for providing programs for secondary school international students preparing to transition into tertiary education. With this collaboration we ran a series of sessions consisting of 3-4 scientific experiments, in order to **introduce groups of international students to STEM** and capture the interests and involvement of those who were studying degrees under other Faculties. This was an ideal opportunity for Science Union to showcase UWA's vibrant campus culture and to share our experiences with international students who will be attending UWA in 2021.

In order to assist in mediating the consequences of Australia's border closure, Science Union will be organising a new initiative involving Australian and international friends in an **Online Speed Friending event**. This will involve international students overseas connecting with international students currently in WA, giving an opportunity for them to appreciate each other's cultures, ask any questions and foster a supportive community to prevent disconnection in the future.

## POSTGRADUATE

The attendance of postgraduate students and experienced alumni at our annual **Science Networking Evening** was unprecedented this year, with many undergraduate students being provided the unique and valuable **opportunity to discuss future study and career prospects** with more knowledgeable students. The networking evening also provided **postgraduate students** the ability to meet and talk with distinguished professionals in an array of science fields.

We will also be collaborating with the **Postgraduate Student's Association (PSA)** on their annual **Postgraduate Student's Gala** at the end of this semester to further improve our relationship with postgraduate students and postgraduate Faculty Societies and clubs. This will help create a **community of postgraduates** to assist in supporting each other through their degree and provide **opportunities for them to bond and develop friendships**.

# RELATIONSHIPS

*Built and maintained relationships, to the benefit of students, with bodies external to the University, including but not limited to corporate relationships and sponsorship*

## RELATIONSHIPS EXTERNAL TO THE UNIVERSITY

Science Union has collaborated with **ConocoPhillips** for **The ConocoPhillips Science Experience**. This is a 3-4-day program consisting of an **interactive series of workshops**, designed to target **year 9 and 10 high school students** with an interest in Science to **provide information regarding a future in STEM**. The science experience takes place in over 35 tertiary institutions and is the perfect opportunity to not only represent UWA, but to **engage with a previously unengaged target audience**. This initiative was beneficial to the **high school students** and allowed volunteers from Science Union the opportunity to **practise their public speaking and teaching skills**, whilst also providing a **valuable volunteering experience** that could be **recorded on their academic transcript**.

Science Union also secured a partnership with **Varsity Bar & Burgers**, allowing our financial members discounts to products such as **\$5 Varsity lager and cider**. With this partnership, Science Union will also present the **Hot Wings Eating Challenge**, where we will raise money for **Relay for Life**. **To promote inclusivity**, participants are also able to choose sweet corn as a **vegetarian option**.

Earlier in the year, Science Union was a part of the **Local Matters Program at Grill'd Cottesloe**, which gave us an opportunity to **expand our reach** into the **local community**. In collaboration with **StudentVIP** (Australia's most popular student platform with access to notes, textbooks and tutors) Science Union was also able to **provide useful resources** to students by promoting StudentVIP merchandise as well as **maintaining this external relationship**.

Science Union t-shirts are made with the same company every year, **UpTempo Designs**. We **strengthen this relationship** every year through our merchandise, allowing us to promote it consistently. We also invested in Science Union **Socks**, which sports an **inclusive design** with general science-related artwork. These socks were produced with **Toe the Line**, a partnership that promotes our design and **expands our reach on external media platforms**. Finally, Science Union has demonstrated a **strong connection with the wider community and bodies external to the university** with our **Volunteering Crawl**. This event allowed students to assist companies like **WA Aids Council** through **condom packing**, **St Bart's Community Housing** through a **painting project**, and doing a **Matilda Bay beach clean-up**.

## SPONSORSHIP

Science Union has a dedicated the role of **Sponsorship Officer** to ensure that each year we **engage with the wider community**. In November 2019, the External Affairs Portfolio sent out a **Prospectus to 20+ different businesses** to gauge interest in sponsoring Science Union in 2020.

We have previously received sponsorship deals with **RedBull**, **BHP** and **Varsity**, and have **maintained these relationships** despite COVID-19. We have also successfully continued our **five-year partnership with Fraser's GAMSAT** and received extra funding in exchange for our social media reach, allowing us to **decrease pricing for our events**, ensuring **accessibility for all students**.

## RELATIONSHIPS FOR THE BENEFIT OF STUDENTS

Our **Networking Evening** aimed to **build relationships between the professional and university world**.

This year, we ran the event so both **undergraduate and postgraduate students** could **gain interpersonal networking skills** through the incorporation of a 'networking bingo,' where small challenges helped **facilitate relationships** between professionals and higher degree students. This event provides an opportunity to **explore employment opportunities and encourages students with their academic pursuits**. Through our online **LinkedIn** presence, we have encouraged students to utilise LinkedIn as a **professional outlet for their future connections**. Our speakers, Dr Stewart Midgley, Dr Kelly Gogh, Dr Nicholas Pachter and Dr Gillian Starling, provided students with an understanding that there are innumerable opportunities available in the field of science. Through these speakers, Science Union has **forged connections** with their corresponding organisations, including **DUG geophysics**, **Genetic Services of Western Australia** and **MCC Environmental Solutions**.

As aforementioned, Science Union has also worked alongside the **UWA Careers and Employability Centre** to bring students multiple seminars that explored a variety of **STEM career pathways**. These initiatives had the purpose of **enhancing career awareness** so that science students are **more employable upon graduation**.

# WELLBEING

*Demonstrated a commitment to maintaining and furthering student wellbeing, taking into account equity and diversity.*

## COMMITMENT TO FURTHER STUDENT WELLBEING

The online presence of our Simpsons themed **PROSH video** allowed us to be involved, even when in isolation. Our promotional material for PROSH allowed us to gain a wide reach across **all social media platforms, raising money for Dog's Refuge Home WA, Fair Game and Short Back and Sidewalks.**

Science Union has two teams signed up for the annual UWA 2020 **Relay for Life**, consisting of a **diverse range** of UWA students. Fundraising initiatives held both **online and in person aim to expand reach and increase our contribution to Relay for Life.**

The club has run a multitude of initiatives that focus on student wellbeing such as **Beyond Blue Workshops and SafeTALK.** This year has presented us with an opportunity to **expand on the initiatives** we have taken in the past. During quarantine, people were losing their jobs, had limited access to friends and family and adjustments to online learning, causing anxiety for students. The welfare portfolio sought to relieve this anxiety through **inclusive online initiatives.**

Social media platforms promoted opportunities to engage with our financial members. The welfare portfolio organised a **speed friending** event in collaboration with **PAC** and the **Guild Welfare Department.** Science Union also held a seat on the **Welfare Committee**, organised and run by the Guild Welfare Department. With this opportunity, we were able to **further engage** with other welfare representatives and **determine what we could do to benefit students.**

The welfare portfolio initiated the education **newsletter**, which was emailed to all financial members and simultaneously posted on our Facebook page, allowing students to be well informed of the changes by the university. We also created a **financial guide** as an easy-to-read graphic on Facebook, allowing students to navigate their way through the confusing **Centrelink** website and government grants available. Both initiatives were used to **alleviate the stresses** that students were facing.

Later in October, we will be hosting **SafeTALK** in collaboration with **UWA Guild Access** and the **ALVA Students' Society.** SafeTALK is an accredited program by **LivingWorks Education Australia**, designed to provide people with the necessary skills in identifying suicidality in those around them. The course provides insight on how to respond to these signs and link affected individuals with further suicide intervention help. With the rising mental health issues surrounding COVID-19, this workshop will be the perfect opportunity to **equip students with necessary suicide-prevention skills.**

## EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

Utilising our newly refined **Sub-Committee** roles, we held **Women in Science Breakfast** in Acorn Café, which celebrated a diverse range of speakers in science, including UWA's own Dr Demelza Ireland, who is passionate about women's health and education. In addition, the welfare portfolio held a successful **Beach Clean-Up** and aims to run a **Hair Donation** event to fundraise for Relay for Life. The hair from this event will be **donated to create wigs or to clean oil spills.** Finally, Science Union acknowledged and celebrated the achievements and traditions of our **diverse peers** on our social media by:

- Compiling a list of LGBTQIA+ achievements in science
- Celebrating Eid Mubarak
- Compiling a list of First Nations accomplishments in science and writing a Welcome to Country that celebrates First Nations Peoples that is read before all our events

---

# INTEGRATION

*Provided a program of social events, as well as other initiatives, ensuring integration within and between year levels.*

Science Union's social portfolio worked towards two main goals throughout the year. Firstly, to facilitate the **engagement of a wider and more diverse audience.** Secondly, we strived to **maintain our engagement** with our current audience, ensuring that our events continue to serve the interests of the community we have built throughout the years. Despite the unique circumstances of 2020, Science Union has successfully achieved both these goals not only within the university, but also in the communities beyond.

Science Union's social events have been hugely popular this year, with all formal ticketed events and collaborations run by the social portfolio this year selling out. We have also achieved an incredible turnout on non-ticketed events by both **science, non-science, UWA and non-UWA students.**

## FIRST YEAR ENGAGEMENT

Science Union's **first year camp** is a valuable opportunity for first year students commencing their studies to meet their peers as well as **form networks with students from all year levels**. The camp is entirely student run and encourages students from all disciplines to develop their **team building and leadership skills** in a relaxed, **safe and enjoyable environment**. First year students were placed in family groups with older students to ensure they always had people to talk to and trust. These families allowed for long **lasting connections** beyond the duration of the camp.

To facilitate Science Union's audience and engagement, **sundowners** are run at the start of every semester to introduce first year students to the vibrant campus culture we are all akin to. These events welcome students from all year levels back to campus to encourage **intra- and inter-year friendships** between students of many facets of university life. Our sundowners are the perfect opportunity for individuals to mingle with people they would not normally meet in their classes over an **inclusive (vegetarian & gluten-free) BBQ**, incorporating informal socialising to help facilitate these friendships.

Similar to camp, Science Union also participated in **Fresher Social Outreach** in collaboration with **Leisure UWA**. This saw older students form families with first year students to encourage a relationship where an older student acted as a **mentor** or friend throughout their university journey. This year, Science Union has continued to achieve strong first year engagement by connecting these students to a **healthy campus culture** and **building a strong network** that will last beyond their degree.

## INITIATIVES RUN IN SOCIAL ISOLATION

Over isolation, the social portfolio ran several online events and initiatives to keep morales high in this difficult time. Science Union ran the **first and only successful public online quiz night** in collaboration with the **ALVA Students' Society**, that was **livestreamed** on Facebook. The event consistently had over **100 people tuning into the event**, with over **30 teams** participating on the night, a number equivalent to an in-person quiz night. This huge success brought along further online initiatives, such as our **isolation competitions**. Throughout semester 1, the social portfolio brought **Fresher Iso-Chef**, a cooking competition aimed at first year students to **strengthen the networks** they had

made before isolation; **Isolation interRUPTtion**, a volcano-making competition in collaboration with **CHeMnBiO**, and **Trick Shot Grand Prix** in collaboration with **UEC**, which involved participants filming their most elaborate trick shots with whatever items they had available to them. These competitions were successful with over **40 participants in total**, awarding prizes to the winner of every competition.

Another initiative Science Union ran was **interactive social media posts** that continued to engage students from our communities that were beginning to lose enthusiasm as social isolation continued. Our **Science Union Bingo** was widely popular, with over **20 reposts** from several non-science students as it was **widely accessible and inclusive**. We also posted **Spin Us A Yarn**, where participants were required to write a creative passage using words related to Science Union and UWA. Finally, the social portfolio posted a **7-Day Music Challenge** to Science Union's Instagram, which encouraged participants to post a song on their social media for 7 days. We believe the new online community we have created is a testament to the work we have put in throughout the year to **widen our audience and maintain engagement** that we have already established with our students.

## INTEGRATION BETWEEN YEAR LEVELS

Our semester 2 **sundowner** welcomed students back to campus after a long social isolation period, which saw over **300 students** from all backgrounds attend our event for the **revitalisation of campus culture**. It was a fantastic opportunity for people of **all years** to jump straight back into the vibrant campus culture we had missed during semester 1 with a range of **inclusive activities** such as frisbee and football. Our end of semester event will be a **Tea-pe party**, consisting of a relaxing pot-luck event for **all students** to socialise before exams.

This Friday the 18th of September, we will present Science Union's annual **Ball**. Every year, the social portfolio runs our biggest event to showcase Science Union to the **wider community**. Our ball has consistently been popular throughout the years, and this year was no exception with **tickets selling out within a week**. Many ticketholders are **non-science students**, which demonstrates the success of **expanding our reach** to those **beyond UWA**. **Retrobball** is also a broad and fun theme, allowing all guests to feel comfortable at our event. Overall, Science Union Ball serves as an **inclusive and entertaining** celebration of our success as students of the Faculty of Science.

In order to improve integration within all science students, the Science Union sweaters were made available online for anyone and everyone.



# INNOVATION

*Demonstrated innovation in response to the changing needs of students, with reference to the indicators in 3a of these guidelines.*

## INNOVATIONS IN COMMITTEE

As science is an **ever-changing and expansive field** with many different schools falling under the Faculty of Science, Science Union defined the roles of our **Education Sub-Committee**. We now have a **representative** for each school under the Faculty of Science, these being:

- Molecular Sciences representative
- Earth Sciences representative
- Human Sciences representative
- Biological Sciences representative
- Psychological Sciences representative
- Agriculture and Environmental Sciences representative

Additionally, Science Union has a longstanding commitment to ensuring **equity and diversity** is maintained among science students. We have expanded our perspective on ways to affect change through continuing the **Equity & Diversity Sub-Committee**, refining the below positions:

- LGBTQIA+ representative
- Women's representative
- Multicultural representative
- Faith representative
- First Nations representative
- Accessibility representative
- Welfare representative
- Environmental representative

## RESPONSE TO THE CHANGING NEEDS OF STUDENTS

Running events for our students and the wider community is our platform to engage and run initiatives in response to the ever-changing university environment, especially this year. Science Union has **demonstrated our commitment** to ensuring all of our events meet the needs of the students within and beyond the Faculty of Science with the following events:

- Online **study nights** for popular units such as **ANHB1101, ANHB2212, CHEM1003** in collaboration with science subsidiary clubs like **PHAC** and **CHeMnBiO** to cater for the lack of face-to-face learning.
- **Psychology Lab Report Writing Night** in collaboration with **PsySoc** that brought older, more experienced science students to assist first- and second-year students in their degree-specific lab reports.
- **Interactive social media posts** to strengthen our online presence and build a **new online community** that consistently engages with the increasing demand for online content.
- The first livestreamed **online quiz night** in collaboration with the **ALVA Students' Society** that provided students with a well-needed break from social isolation and their studies.
- An online **StreetSmart Exercise Challenge** that raised nearly **\$500 for homelessness in Australia**, which promoted students to engage in exercise during isolation
- **UWA Science Exchange Series**, which ran alongside the Science Faculty and provided awareness to science students about research and **career prospects, connecting students to post-graduates, alumni and prominent figures in specific fields of science.**

## ENGAGING A WIDER AUDIENCE

With the numerous collaborations listed above, Science Union is always striving to continue widening our audience and **encourage students** from different backgrounds to attend our events. We have demonstrated this by presenting **Avatar: The Last Airbender Pubcrawl** in collaboration with **ECOMS, UEC** and **Arts Union**. This **200-person event** involved students from **all academic backgrounds**, providing social opportunity to peers who are not of a science background.

Similarly, our upcoming **Docs on Docs Pubcrawl** on October 7th, in collaboration with the **ALVA Students' Society**, will encourage students beyond science and architecture, landscape and fine arts to **engage with a wider audience outside of their faculty**. This event will also donate **\$2 of each ticket to Beyond Blue** in collaboration with **Who Gives A Buck**.

To further strengthen these relationships and contribution to the community we have made, Science Union hosted a **Crafternoon** in collaboration with **Micro Volunteering UWA** to make decorations for our largest events. This Crafternoon was **open to everyone** and a **unique opportunity to relax**, socialise and bring out participants' creative side. We believe we have successfully increased our scope of audience this year by **creating an online community**, collaborated between bodies outside of science, and **built relationships with external bodies.**

# BEST NEW EVENT

## ISOLATION COMPETITION SERIES

First semester saw an unprecedented, unique climate – COVID-19. The pandemic was a major interruption to the university student experience, directly inhibiting efficient study, employment, and social interaction. To combat these issues, Science Union **introduced a new event series – the isolation competitions.**

This series **invited all students; science and non-science, international students** affected by restrictions, **postgraduates**, and in particular **first-years** who were unable to experience an official introduction to university. Science Union organised a range of creative, interactive events that ran fortnightly online in **collaboration with other student clubs.** Staple competitions include:

- **A cook-off**
- **Isolation InERUPTION** (DIY volcanoes) alongside **CHeMnBiO**
- **Trick Shot Grand Prix** alongside **UEC**
- **TikTok** dance competition alongside **UWA Cheer and Dance**, which unfortunately had to be cancelled.

Science Union ensured this series had **social, welfare, and educational benefits for its participants.** Social isolation was a massive issue for students across UWA during quarantine, leading to a spike in mental health problems and exacerbating issues that many students were experiencing. This series set out to **negate the effects of social isolation in a fun, creative manner**, giving students an opportunity to socialise and meet fellow students in an atypical way. Challenges such as DIY volcanoes also helped **educate students** on scientific concepts.

Through advertisement in our **Science Union First Years** and **Clubs in Quarantine Facebook groups**, the isolation competition series was able to **embrace inclusivity.** The events connected students from all different backgrounds and introduced new students to the wide range of student societies that exist on campus. Ultimately, the isolation competition series had a positive impact on student welfare, **encouraging social interactivity** during quarantine whilst showcasing the vibrancy of UWA's campus culture which continued to exist even during a pandemic.

**On behalf of Science Union's committee and all our members, thank you for taking the time to read and consider our application.**

