

CAPSTONE RESEARCH & ENQUIRY PROJECTS

Capstone projects are often undertaken as a culminating academic and intellectual experience for students (GSP, 2016) towards the end of their studies. They are designed so that students can demonstrate their breadth of learning across a programme by applying knowledge to a project, topic, piece of research or 'real world' issue (CIE, 2019).

Designing a Capstone Project

Capstone projects have a connected throughline of enquiry – what do our students do and how does the learning across my programme connect? Can we leverage this in a capstone project? (Fung, 2017).



Examples of capstone projects include:

Research into a subject, Event planning, Experiments, Showcases, a Performance or Exhibition, Service learning or Volunteering, Internships or Work-Based Learning and Development of Resources

Why Use Capstone?

The dual intention with a capstone project is to help students successfully negotiate the transition from their studies into their next career stage, whether that is the workplace or future study and to work towards the development of higher levels of intellectual development (Baxter Magolda 2009; Healy et al., 2013).

CHALLENGES OF CAPSTONE

Making coherent connections across disciplines or modules is not always easy.

Learning within capstone research must be visibly relevant to students.

Finding a balance between subject depth, employability and student experience and expectations can be quite tough (Fung, 2017).

Due to the scale, developing capstone projects can be daunting; however the rewards can be great!