Curtin Malaysia Community Engagement Fund 2024

The Curtin Malaysia Community Engagement (CMCE) a fund to encourage academic staff to implement Community Engagement (CE) projects, and include community-engaged learning (CEL) in their classes.

Through this fund, academic staff may contribute to the community, by sharing their knowledge, expertise and experience; support efforts by various groups in working towards specific targets or causes; and enhance students' learning through CEL in their learning activities.

Through engagement in the community, students undergo experiential learning and community-engaged scholarship, and engage with course content through collaborations with community. CE projects, and CEL involve a mutually-beneficial partnership by students, academics and the community to engage students with course concepts, and apply them in a way to benefit community members. Such a learning activity is experiential, community-engaged, reciprocal, and involves real-life application of course content. An active interchange of knowledge both to the community from the student, and to the student from the community is facilitated through CEL (Community-Engaged Learning, UVic Learn Anywhere, 2023).

The 'community' may include community groups, businesses, governmental and non-governmental agencies, societies or learned bodies, industry and others. This engagement may happen through projects, outreach, participation, creative activity and others, as shown in Figure 1.

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Low engagement and simple reciprocity	Facilitated by project team (academics)	**Inform** Students interact with community partners through the exchange of knowledge. *Example: A computer engineer discusses challenges of hacking and cybersecurity to computing and engineering students.* **Consult** Students provide research or project support for community partners *Example: Communications students act as enumerators for a Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission survey.*
Medium engagement and average reciprocity		**Involve** Students participate in community partner endeavours *Example: Psychology students work with Health, Disability and Counselling Department to provide mental health awareness to the Bekenu town community.* **Collaborate** Students and/or faculty develop and implement mutual projects with community partners *Example: Civil Engineering students join an immersion programme in Miri City Council and carry out design work to improve traffic flow in Senadin.*
High engagement and complex reciprocity		**Co-create** Faculty and community partners co-create, co-deliver and co-evaluate community-engaged learning *Example: Faculty of Business: Faculty students and academics (from a variety of courses) together with the Institute of Marketing Malaysia carry out a study on inflation in several sectors in the 2024 Cost of Living outlook project.*

Figure 1: A spectrum of engagement in Community Engagement projects (based on Community-Engaged Learning, UVic Learn Anywhere, 2023).

CE projects may take different forms, and CEL may be integrated through several ways in CE projects, as shown in the figure below.

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Facilitated by project team (academics)		
Community Service Learning Students volunteer in community service addressing community needs as part of a unit.	**Field Experience** Students immerse in on-site work experience relevant to their field of study (1 - 3 weeks). These do not require supervision of a registered/licensed professional and the completed work experience hours are not required for professional certification. Field experience does not include internship or industrial training	**Applied Projects** Students collaborate with a community partner by creating a project related to their learning objectives/outcomes while also contributing to the community.

Figure 2: How Community-Engaged Learning (CEL) is integrated into Community Engagement (CE) Projects (based on Community-Engaged Learning, UVic Learn Anywhere, 2023).

It is expected that the outcome of the fund is for students to experience CEL and CE projects, and project team (academics) to initiate projects and establish linkages with the community. Interaction through this project could lead to greater projects, and fruitful, lasting relationships which could benefit all parties.

A panel will be convened to determine the winners of the fund, and the decision will be made based on the merits of each application.

The CMCE fund is up to a maximum of RM2,000. Project teams are encouraged to request for less than the maximum amount, if possible. This way, more teams may be awarded the fund for their projects. Each CMCE project will run until 31 December 2024. **Please note that an academic staff may only hold ONE CMCE per year as project leader, regardless of fund amount.**

Applications are to be prepared according to the application form, and each application must have a signed Statement of Support from the applicants' Head of Department, Associate Dean Learning and Teaching or equivalent or Faculty Dean.

The fund recipients will be required to report on the outcomes of their CE project at the end of the year via a CMCE Concluding Report, and USR or KTP form. They will also be required to disseminate the outcomes of their proposed CE projects, via University or Faculty L&T seminars at a minimum, or organise workshops or forums if more appropriate, or publish their work in conferences or journals.

The closing date for CMCE 2024 Round 2 is Friday, 26 January 2024. Please send all applications to Ms. Tayah Munggang (Tayah.m@curtin.edu.my).