

Partnering with UNSW Sandbox: Addressing Societal Challenges with Tomorrow's Leaders



The UNSW Sandbox Program unsw.to/sandbox brings together industry partners, academic experts, and talented students to collaboratively address pressing societal challenges embedded directly into the curriculum.

What is UNSW Sandbox Program?

The UNSW Sandbox Program is a collaborative platform where industry, academia, and students jointly tackle real-world societal issues through innovative, multidisciplinary projects.

By embedding complex challenges – such as digital exclusion, energy transitions, and sustainable development – directly into university curricula, UNSW Sandbox Program prepares students to be future-ready problem solvers while providing industry partners with meaningful solutions and actionable insights.



Industry partners collaborating with UNSW Sandbox Program gain:



Innovative Solutions:

Practical solutions developed through multidisciplinary student teams in collaboration with academic experts.



Access to Talent:

Direct collaboration with students skilled in relevant disciplines, who bring fresh ideas and are equipped to address real-world challenges immediately upon entering the workforce.



Strategic Partnerships:

Collaboration with leading UNSW academics, with opportunities to expand into research projects and long-term knowledge exchange.



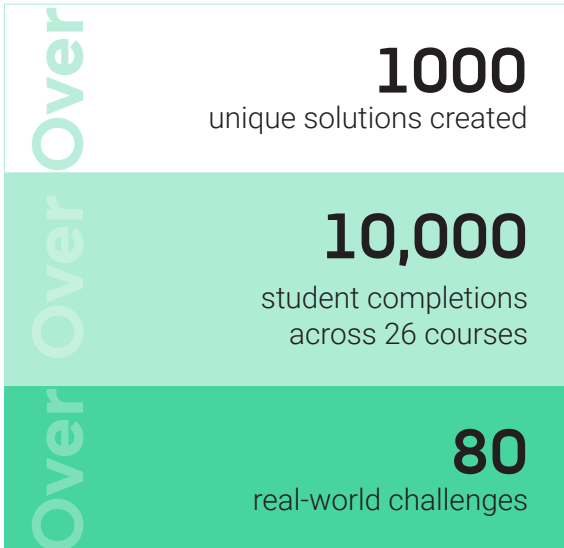
Influence on Future Workforce Skills:

Opportunity to shape the learning experience by embedding real-world challenges into the curriculum, ensuring graduates are prepared to address industry and societal needs.



Enhanced Brand Visibility: Strengthen your presence within UNSW, build meaningful connections, and position your brand as a leader in driving societal impact.

Partner with Sandbox and become part of a growing team that has already engaged more than 150 organisations and community representatives over the past five years.



Some of the challenges past projects have explored include:

- › Disability Awareness
- › Climate Change
- › Student Engagement
- › Mental Wellbeing
- › Indigenous Culture
- › Cyber Resilience
- › Crisis Management
- › Humanitarian Safety
- › Digital Inclusion
- › Data Literacy
- › Environmental Sustainability
- › Human Resource Management
- › Global Business Management
- › Entrepreneurship
- › Marketing Communication
- › Predictive Analytics
- › Retirement Planning
- › Social Media Analytics
- › Data Visualisation
- › Financial Modelling

Over 30 diverse partners:

- › Large technology firms (e.g., Microsoft, Oracle)
- › Pharmaceutical firms (e.g., Roche Australia)
- › Consulting firms (e.g., PwC, EY, KPMG)
- › Humanitarian organisations (e.g., Australian Red Cross)
- › Government agencies (e.g., APRA)
- › Insurance companies (e.g., Insurance Australia Group, MetLife)
- › Social enterprises (e.g., WWF Australia, Tribal Warrior)
- › Community groups (e.g., UNSW Bush Tucker Trail group)



Unlock Global Partnership Opportunities with the Sandbox Alliance

The Global Sandbox Alliance offers industry partners the opportunity to collaborate with leading universities, including current alliance members such as the University of Toronto and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, to co-create solutions for pressing societal challenges. By expanding the successful UNSW Sandbox model globally, the Alliance connects industry leaders with academic expertise and talented students through cross-disciplinary real-world projects.

For industry partners, this means access to a global network of knowledge, skilled talent, and scalable solutions. Engaging with the Alliance strengthens your capacity to drive innovation and expand global impact.



Industry Success Stories

“It’s been an absolute pleasure working with UNSW Sandbox. I’m so impressed, not only by quality of the students, but also how professionally this program has been run.”

**Clement Lui, Director,
PwC Australia.**

[Project Showcase Video](#)

“I was so impressed by the quality of the presentations, but the thing that I was most pleased about was that students were already thinking about the business outcomes and how the analysis could drive better decision making for our business.”

**Christa Marjoribanks,
Executive General Manager
(Product Pricing and Governance),
IAG.**

[Project Showcase Video](#)

“Today’s product showcase blew us away: the ideas, how much consideration they put into the project, how much effort they put into the challenge, and how much they really took the concepts and brought them to life in the projects. It has been absolutely fantastic.”

**Christina Hoang, Marketing
Manager (Retail, Customer and
Marketing), MetLife Australia.**

[Project Showcase Video](#)

How to Get Involved in Three Simple Steps

Propose a Challenge:

Submit a real-world challenge that aligns with your organisation's objectives. We are looking for contemporary business and societal challenges that can benefit from latest research and inspire students to develop creative, real-world solutions.



Engage with Academics and Students:

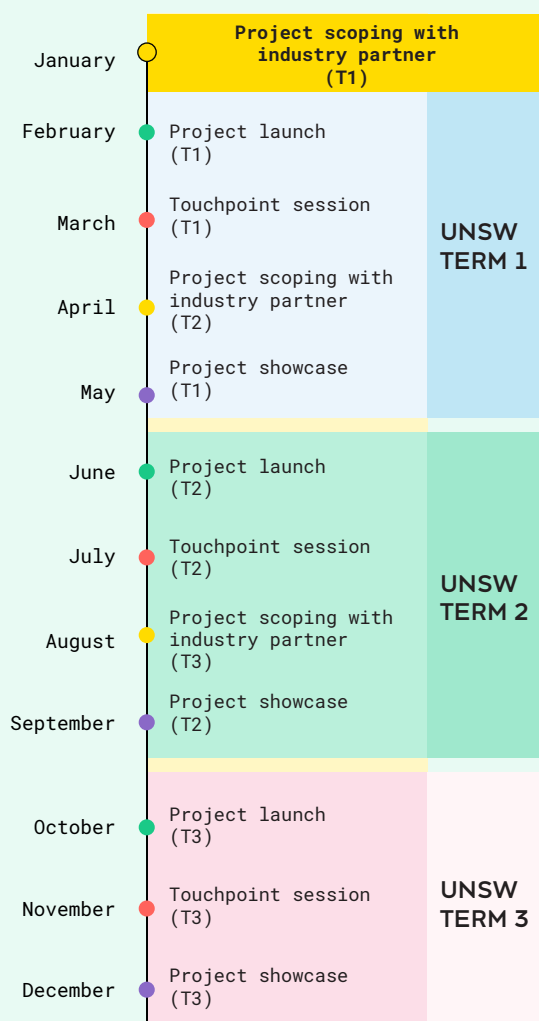
You will lead a project launch session to introduce your organisation, outline the challenge, and provide key context. Throughout the term, UNSW academics will mentor students as they develop research-backed solutions, with opportunities for you to offer insights and feedback to keep the project aligned with your objectives.



Celebrate and Extend:

At the end of a Sandbox, students will present their solutions, and you will provide feedback to support their learning. Many partnerships extend beyond the project, leading to long-term mentoring, internships, co-hosted events, or future research collaborations.

Project Timeline



[Submit a Challenge](#)



Contact Us: sandbox@unsw.edu.au

Do you want to:

Learn more about sandbox program?

[Find out more](#)

Partner with us on your next challenge?

[Find out more](#)

Explore past projects?

[Find out more](#)

Search for an academic expert in a specific field to work with?

[Find out more](#)