UNSW SYDNEY

UNSW Business School

UNSW PRAxIS Co-lab Program

UNSW PRAxIS

Research that works where it matters

Overview

The PRAxIS Co-lab Program establishes strategically positioned, localised, and mission-ready collaboration laboratories ("co-labs") designed to address stakeholders' needs identified within specific contexts through engaged research. These Co-labs serve as dynamic, theme-based action centres where businesses, governments, and communities collaborate with dedicated PRAxIS research teams to co-design and implement innovative, research-driven solutions.

Each Co-lab tackles local challenges within a targeted domain by focusing on capacity building, solution implementation, and continuous evaluation – all aimed at creating sustainable value from research.

By maintaining close collaboration with partners – through co-location, on-site engagement, or other collaborative activities – the Co-labs ensure that the latest research is effectively applied, adapted to local complexities, and meaningfully integrated into the context. They provide partners with evidence-based support to drive continuous improvement, foster sustainability, and deliver long-term impact through innovation.

Objectives

1. **Addressing Local Needs:** Establish a persisting pathway for the latest research to be translated into practice, allowing partners to collaboratively observe, evaluate, and refine its impact over time.
2. **Capacity Building:** Equip local partners and communities with the knowledge and skills needed to adopt and adapt research-based solutions to achieve sustained outcomes.
3. **Innovation and Partnership:** Position and empower partners as forward-thinking leaders in driving innovation and addressing critical challenges through co-created, research-driven solutions.

Co-lab Services and Offerings

1. **Need-based Innovation:**
   - > Assemble a dedicated research team to engage with local stakeholders, uncovering unmet needs and priorities through systematic analysis and collaboration
   - > Co-design and implement research-based, context-specific solutions that directly address the identified challenges
2. **Capacity Building:**
   - > Design and deliver targeted upskilling programs to build the skills and knowledge of partners and community stakeholders
   - > Embed Co-lab expertise within partner operations to enable continuous collaboration and fostering mutual growth over time
3. **Sustainable Impact:**
   - > Establish systems for evaluating the long-term impact of implemented solutions, ensuring continuous improvement and accountability
   - > Act as a channel for knowledge dissemination, formulating success stories, best practices, and scalable models that inspire broader adoption and innovation across industries and communities

Co-lab Operational Framework

1. **Collaborative Design Approach:**

PHASE 1 — DISCOVERY
Identify local needs and challenges through participatory methods involving partners and PRAxIS experts.

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PHASE 2 — CO-DESIGN
Co-create tailored solutions by aligning local insights with latest research.

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PHASE 3 — LAUNCH
Develop an actionable implementation roadmap and begin deploying solutions on-site through the establishment of a Co-lab.

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PHASE 4 — EVALUATION
Continuously evaluate the outcomes of implemented solutions, ensuring iterative improvements.

2. **Partner Engagement and Funding Structure:**
   > To ensure flexibility and alignment with different partnership needs, PRAxIS offers a tiered funding and engagement framework:

Offerings	Initiate (Partner Contribution < $50k)	Expand (Partner Contribution $50k-$150k)	Accelerate (Partner Contribution > $150k)
Matched Funding Contribution	In-kind (PRAxIS experts)	Up to $30k + in-kind	Negotiated (Based on scope & strategic alignment)
Expert Advisory & Consultation from PRAxIS Experts	✓	✓	✓
Facilitated Workshops & Needs Assessments for Implementation Planning	✓	✓	✓
Tailored Research-Backed Recommendations	✓	✓	✓
Impact Evaluation & Reporting	✓	✓	✓
Access to Proprietary Research & Toolkits	Limited	✓	✓
Access to Dedicated Co-lab Space at UNSW for Collaboration	—	Fixed hours	✓
Dedicated Research Liaison for Ongoing Coordination	—	✓	✓
Structured Implementation Support	—	✓	✓
Targeted Training and Capacity Building Programs	—	✓	✓ (Tailored Long-Term Engagement)
Embedded Research Personnel for On-Site Expertise	—	—	✓ (Integrated in Partner Org)

   > Partner organisations are essential to the Co-lab's success and are expected to provide:
     - Time and expertise to actively participate in collaborative design and implementation efforts.
     - Access to physical facilities, when appropriate.
     - Assistance in engaging relevant stakeholders to ensure impact.
     - Active involvement as co-implementers of initiatives to drive success
   > Each Co-lab is co-branded with the partner organisation, symbolising shared ownership, accountability, and a commitment to delivering meaningful, sustainable results.

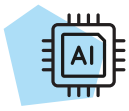
Why "Co-lab" With Us?

1. **For Partners:**
   > Access latest research and innovative, evidence-based solutions tailored to strategic needs.
   > Build organisational capacity through expert training, consultation, and on-site implementation support.
   > Strengthen partnerships with research institutions, creating pathways for future collaboration.
   > Demonstrate commitment to addressing local challenges through co-branded initiatives that ensure visibility and impact.
2. **For Communities:**
   > Benefit from solutions designed specifically for local needs.
   > Build confidence and capacity to engage with and adapt to innovations.
   > Experience enhanced social and economic outcomes through improved local systems and services.

Potential Co-lab Domains

The UNSW PRAxIS Lab (unsw.to/praxis) is an interdisciplinary research lab with expertise spanning diverse fields including systems design and implementation, data science and AI, public health, operations management, risk modelling, corporate governance, change management, and organisational leadership.

Given this broad expertise, Co-labs can be established across a wide range of domains tailored to local stakeholder needs. Potential focus areas include:



Responsible Implementation of Generative and Agentic AI
Building capacity for organisations to understand and leverage emerging AI tools responsibly and effectively.

Digital Health Innovation Implementation:
Supporting the adoption and integration of innovative digital health solutions into local healthcare systems.

Social Inclusion Programs
Designing initiatives such as digital upskilling for seniors to foster greater participation and equity in the digital age.

Digital Resilience Building
Helping local governments and businesses enhance their resilience against acute and chronic shocks through targeted digital strategies and capacity building.

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For more information about the PRAxIS Co-lab Program or to discuss potential partnerships, please contact Associate Professor Yenni Tim (yenni.tim@unsw.edu.au).

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