Foundations in SustainAbility – STREAM project

Authors: Jacqualine Steinmetz, Zoe Sturgess
Co-authors: Naoshin Haque, Iyanujesu Oguntunji, Josefina Infante Kozarow, Bhuvana Chilkuri, Sanaah Khurana

Background and purpose

STREAM: **S**ustainability **T**ransformation through **R**esearch, **E**ducation, and **A**ction at Queen **M**ary

The STREAM team:

- Have been fostering sustainability in the curriculum across disciplines – from business to mathematics and medicine.
- Have been developing a new short course "*Foundations in SustainAbility.*"
- Were funded by the President and Principal's Fund for Educational Excellence.

Purpose

Develop an engaging, interdisciplinary course giving an intro to sustainability, available to all staff and students.

Staff: To create more engaging, sustainability-focused curricula that prepare students for global challenges – aligning them with QMUL strategy.

Students: To become active participants in sustainable development and enhance employability by understanding interdisciplinary connections.

Wider context

The project aligns with QMUL's commitment to **pedagogic innovation**, **accessible education**, and **cross-departmental collaboration**. It:

- Supports the Principals of Program Design
- Supports the new Sustainability Action Statement
- Reinforces the university's commitment to **accessible education**
- Seamlessly integrates into students' academic lives

This project furthers sustainability goals by providing awareness tools to all university staff or student on campus, keeping university as a top choice that **keeps up to date with student expectations and values.**

Co-creation

A distinctive feature of this project is the student co-creator model. Students work closely with academics to develop content for STREAM.
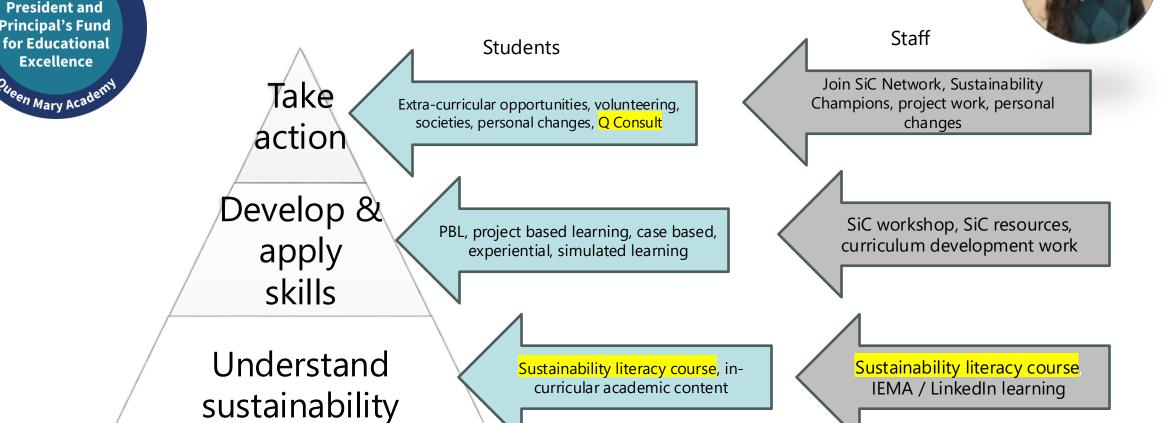
Our five student co-creators:
- Provide **authentic student perspectives** and ensuring content relevance.
- Balance dual roles as **learners and developers**, contributing research, feedback, and content refinement
- Gain valuable interdisciplinary insights and **green skills**.

The project aligns with QMUL's commitment to **pedagogic innovation**, **accessible education**, and **cross-departmental collaboration**.

"The process of simultaneous learning and creating has been central to my experience. It has allowed me to engage with sustainability through a multidisciplinary and intersectional lens, shedding light on often overlooked areas." – Josefina Infante Kozarow (STREAM co-creator)

"Working as a student co-creator has made me more conscious of how my daily actions align with environmental sustainability and ecosystem health. It's not just about research; it's about living the change." – Iyanujesu Oguntunji (STREAM co-creator)

Students / Staff pyramid

Take action
- Students: Extra-curricular opportunities, volunteering, societies, personal changes, Q Consult
- Staff: Join SiC Network, Sustainability Champions, project work, personal changes

Develop & apply skills
- Students: PBL, project based learning, case based, experiential, simulated learning
- Staff: SiC workshop, SiC resources, curriculum development work

Understand sustainability
- Students: Sustainability literacy course, in-curricular academic content
- Staff: Sustainability literacy course IEMA / LinkedIn learning

The themes

Four interconnected themes
- **Theme 1:** poverty, health, well-being, and inequality (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 10)
- **Theme 2:** Education-Economy-Sustainability Triangle (SDGs 4, 8, 9, 12)
- **Theme 3:** environmental sustainability and ecosystem health (SDGs 6, 7, 14, 15)
- **Theme 4:** sustainable communities and governance (SDGs 5, 11, 13, 16, 17).

Each theme is developed by a team of academic and a co-creator, with creative content developed by our Marketing and Comms co-creators.

So far and what's next?

So far:
- **Multiple workshops** and regular theme meetings
- **20+ STREAM collaborators** co-creating content
- **Media feature** – DES staff newsletter

With the **pilot due to take place in September** our next steps are:

1. **Launch** of the project **landing page** to share resources, updates, and student contributions.

2. **Short-term Goal**: Final development of themes, featuring interactive content, real-life examples, and practical tools for students.

3. **Future Opportunities:**
- Expand student-staff collaboration
- Integrate content into wider curriculum
- Showcase outcomes at future academic events