



# Mentor Brief

## What is your role as a mentor?

We are hosting NSW's first virtual Employability and Entrepreneurship challenge - where student teams from 7 institutions will be working in multi-disciplinary teams to solve real life challenges impacting 21<sup>st</sup> Century residents, businesses and communities.

We'd love you to join us as a mentor.

The students will learn and apply start-up methodology (i.e. Business Model Canvas) to come up with a new idea and plan it out in a realistic and feasible manner. They will have to learn new concepts rapidly and at pace, as well as working with a new team - which is challenging.

## Participating organizations;

1. Australian Catholic University
2. Central Queensland University
3. Torrens University
4. University of Technology Sydney
5. University of Sydney
6. University of New South Wales
7. Western Sydney University

## INTERCHANGE 2020 INFORMATION & LOGISTICS

- **Key dates:** July 22<sup>nd</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020
- **Mode of mentoring:** Online/email/phone/text message groups
- **Total Commitment:** Available 1-2 hours per week (over 4 weeks) to meet with and discuss with your teams

## Who will you mentor?

- You may be assigned to 2 student teams. Each team will have between 8-9 students.
- The students are local and international students – from all disciplines and year levels. They range from undergraduate students to Phd students.
- You will be introduced to your teams via email prior to the start of the program and advised to set a timetable to meet with them using the recommended online tools.



- **Key commitment time for mentoring:** The students begin their challenge on July 22nd and complete on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This is when you would need to be able for them to communicate and get help/advice from you.
- The teams will communicate with you through email and online meeting platforms throughout the 4 weeks of the program.
- You are welcome to attend any of the presentations during the Virtual Summits (these will all be taking place on Zoom.com)

## How will you communicate with your 2 teams?

- All communication will take place remotely
- We will introduce you to both your teams (separately) in an email on week of July 22nd 2020
  - Ensure you rotate across the 2 teams you are assigned to during the Challenge; balancing your time with each team via both email and online meetings
- You will then arrange to say hello/meet/communicate with your teams via email/phone/whatsapp group/zoom/google hangouts → *you decide the best method and times that work for you and your group*
- We ask a minimum time commitment of 1-2 hours per week between June 22nd - July 3rd 2020. It can be afterhours and scheduled in your own time.

## Your mentoring role during the Challenge

- Keep teams focused and on-track and aware of deadlines. Look to help them to work quickly across tasks
- Meaningfully challenge their ideas and assumptions
- Ensure participants feel supported and feel welcome to ask for help
- Encourage all members of the team to contribute and participate
- Add your business discipline and experience to ensure they are being realistic and practical in their approach and process

## Will you get training as a mentor?

- You will have access to a mentoring support and training webinar 1 month before the Challenge commences



- You can contact FRANK staff at any time to discuss questions/concerns etc re: mentoring

## **Possible challenges when mentoring**

- Working as a team is the most challenging aspect - it's always 'people problems' like student drop-outs from the program or people not participating as they cannot keep up with the workload of the program. If this is happening in your group, explain to your groups that drop-outs are normal and to keep up their morale nonetheless. This is a normal part of teamwork.
- Working as a team remotely → also ensure they understand it's hard - but they should find ways and tools that work for them to keep communicating
- Help teams also navigate dominant/talkative personalities
- For some students, this may be their first experience with entrepreneurship, business and start-ups
- There will be varying levels of confidence amongst students – some may be quite reserved
- English may be a second language for students
- Students will be under tight time deadlines during the Challenge

### **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING A MENTOR CONTACT FERN AT:**

1. [client@frankteam.com.au](mailto:client@frankteam.com.au)
2. 0421 556 700