

## Microcredentials at Western Sydney University

Microcredentials are emerging as a key element of the Educational response to the disruptions in the nature of work and to the workforce.

Those disruptions reflect the significant **Skills Shortages** being experienced as employers struggle to recruit new workers and instead shift their focus to retaining and reskilling their existing workforce. They reflect the shortened shelf life of technical skills and the rapid emergence of **Skills Gaps** driven, in particular, by the pace change in new of technologies. The concepts of **life-long learning** and **long-life learning** are becoming the immediate reality for many members of our society.

Western Sydney University was quick to see the educational opportunities, amidst this disruption, to deliver on our mission of providing education access to a university education for all in our communities who aspire to it.

- Our **21C Project** developed '**Curiosity Pods**' as unique WSU microcredentials available to all students, to embed within our existing degrees to equip learners for future career success.
- Through 21C we also created and curated innovative microcredentials in partnership with industry and funding bodies such as the Western Parkland City Authority. We launched [WesternX](#) as our portal for stand-alone microcredentials co-created with our communities.
- We are working with our Industry and VET partners to build a range pre-bachelor level microcredentials as part of the NSW government funded **Institute for Applied Technology – Construction**.
- Our [Postgraduate Transformation Project \(PGx\)](#) is developing an innovative new model for post graduate education that is fit for purpose in the new world of life-long and long-life learning.

These educational initiatives are all based on microcredentials and are coordinated by the DVC & VP Academic. Within the University, we have developed new **Microcredentials Procedures** under our Course Design and Approval Policy to support the development of microcredentials. The University is partnering with new National Platforms such as MicroCred Seeker to enable access to our microcredentials.

We particularly welcome opportunities to partner with industry and community to meet your learning needs – please get in touch with the [Office of the DVC Academic](#) to discuss your needs.

If you would like to get involved with any of our Microcredentials work, please contact the project leaders:

Microcredentials Strategy – [Professor Simon Barrie](#) (DVC Academic)  
21C Curiosity Pods – [Dr Nicolene Murdoch](#) (PVC Education Partnerships and Quality)  
WesternX – [Professor Si Bedford](#) (PVC Learning Futures)  
IAT-C – [Mr Anthony Mitri](#) (CEO College)  
PGx- [Ms Cherie Diaz](#) (Executive Director Education Innovation)