

The Connection Project

FACILITATION PROGRAM

r5

20/2/2025

1. Introduction

The project has created a unique peer led program for the training and accreditation of facilitators. This program is 52 weeks long and comprises small intakes of 6-8 participants. Applications are now open for the 2025/26 pilot intake, expected to start June or July.

In essence the program comprises three core components. First, participants create and facilitate practice sessions for their trainee group, (learning by doing). Trainees also create and deliver theory presentations (learning by teaching). Thirdly, both practical works attract systematic and skilful peer feedback that informs progress.

The program leans also on a comprehensive curriculum, and a group mentor (a previous graduate who attends sessions with the program group). However the true cornerstone of the program is the peer group's own collaboration. Each participant brings part of the picture. For leadership, by leadership.

Because the program is self directed, or more accurately, peer directed, there is no financial cost for being in the program.



IMAGE CREDIT: LIFEbeautifulMAGAZINE.COM

2. Committent

The program is open to people who qualify as project members. Being in the program fulfils the pod participation requirement of project membership. It is recommended that applicants have 100+ hours of AR practice under their belts.

Please note that because of the small group sizes, a special committent is required of participants. The no-financial-cost design presents something of a dilemma to intake groups. The dilemma is this: participants dropping out upset a delicate balance. Group sizes less than 6 risk losing critical mass. Conversely, because there is so much practical work, group sizes larger than 6 risk prolonging the program beyond the 1 year target duration.

To maintain the target group size of 6, recommended solutions are to start with 8, or, to have a couple of people in reserve in case someone withdraws in the first 4 weeks. However each group may find their own creative solution.

Our goal is to provide just enough structure to maintain momentum, so, each group may choose their own session times, holiday dates etc. The program, like the project, is all about collaboration. So participants, particularly so in the pilot offering, get to help shape the program.

3. Program outline

The program currently operates online. It consists of two stages.

Stage One

- 26 weekly sessions of 2.5 hours each, comprising:
- 4 sessions which introduce the program (feedback, trial presentations, nervous system friendly practice development etc).
- 8 sessions focus on the project's "big four" (the practice imperative, getting their world, non-verbals, and session management).
- 12 sessions where participants design and facilitate sessions for their program peers.
- Each participant hosts 4 of the regular program sessions (the mentor hosts the first and last session). The session curriculum is delivered using the rotating peer host and with the support of the group's mentor.
- Plus, each participant also creates 3 one hour theory presentations, which are offered to the wider project audience.

Stage Two

- 26 weekly sessions of 2.5 hours each.
- Participants design and facilitate practice sessions for the wider project audience (6 sessions per trainee).
- This stage mostly involves peer support on the project offering work, reviewing feedback, and fine tuning weak areas.
- The curriculum support for this stage includes some facilitation specialisations. Stage two is more self structured, again with a rotating peer host.
- Refine and/or further develop the training curriculum.
- After which, program graduates return to their home pods.

Total time commitment:

- Weekly program session, 2.5 hours for 52 weeks.
- 6 x one hour practice sessions as project offerings (plus suggested attendance of 75%+ of the other trainees' offerings).
- 3 x one hour theory presentations as project offerings (plus suggested attendance of 75% + of the other trainees' presentations).
- Trainees are recommended / expected to maintain a total of at least 2 hours of general practice per week (on any AR platform). There is no substitute for seat time.
- Reading list and some session homework.
- One graduate from each intake serves as mentor for the next intake.

4. Assessment

The program utilises a unique peer feedback assessment system. All theory and practice offerings attract peer feedback, using a purpose built, nervous-system-friendly design. The purpose of the feedback is to highlight areas where core competence has been achieved and to gently indicate where further work may be required. Trainees get to learn from feedback and to focus their study and practice accordingly. Each trainee is ultimately responsible for meeting feedback targets to ensure graduation and accreditation as a project facilitator.

5. More info

For enquiries and more information about enrolment please contact info@theconnectionproject.nz