Innovation and entrepreneurship programs for young people

We are well placed on the Sunshine Coast to capitalise on the new opportunities and careers that technology and innovation will enable. Investing in our young people and creating more opportunities for them is about building resilience and certainty for our future. Sunshine Coast Council supports a range of programs and events to highlight to young people the wealth of information and opportunities that are available to help connect and support them on their journey.
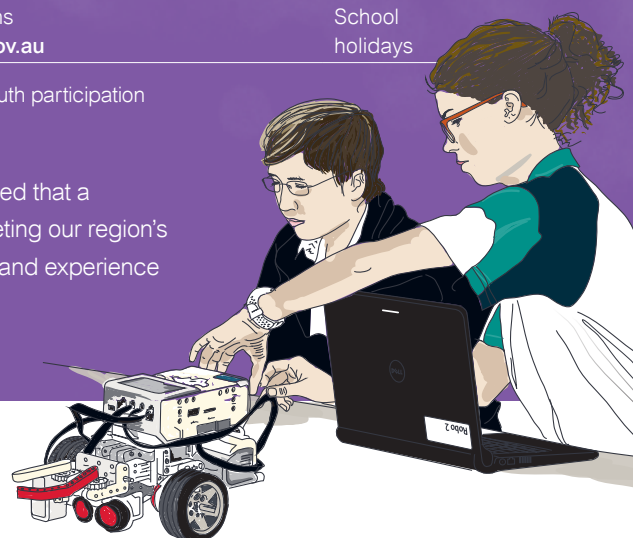
Name	Target group	About	When**
Mayor's Telstra Innovation Awards	Years 10-12	Students showcase innovative ideas, learn new skills and win prizes. Students connect with industry mentors to develop entrepreneurial thinking and creative uses of technology. www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/techawards	January-June
BiG Day In	Years 9-12	A digital and careers conference where technology professionals talk about how students can shape a future career in this field. thebigdayin.com.au	March
Startup Weekend	University, senior secondary*	An intense, action-based weekend event for people with business ideas looking for skills, or people with skills looking for a business idea. facebook.com/SWSunshineCoast	April
Generation Innovation	15-25 year olds	The first of its kind anywhere in the world, this challenge is for young people wanting to start their own business. generationinnovation.com.au	April-June
#SunJam	Senior secondary, university	Amateur and professional game designers, developers and artists come together for an intensive 48-hour Jam Session to design and prototype innovative game ideas. usc.edu.au	July
GovHack Sunshine Coast	Senior secondary, university*	An annual competition which explores the opportunities for new products and services based on open data sets. govhack.org	September
Serious Games Showcase	University	This event features presentations by teams of University of the Sunshine Coast Serious Games students, academics and local game developers. usc.edu.au	November
CoderDojo	Primary and secondary	A free coding club which covers everything from basic web, app and game development. sunshinecoast.coderdojo.com.au	Saturdays during school terms
RoboCoast	Secondary	RoboCoast is a hub of state and private schools promoting robotics and coding through student training days, visits and a range of fun robotics competitions. robocoast.tech	During school terms
Library programs	Primary and secondary	Coding and robotics sessions library.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au	School holidays

*Alongside adults in a friendly environment which welcomes youth participation
** Program dates are estimates and may be subject to change

The Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Strategy identified that a continued investment in talent and skills is crucial to meeting our region's needs and preparing our workforce with the knowledge and experience they need to compete in a global marketplace.
www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Sunshine Coast COUNCIL | Our region. Healthy. Smart. Creative.

Innovation in our schools

Mountain Creek State High School's **Coding and Innovation Hub** promotes lean startup and design principles and provides opportunities in advanced coding for students across the Sunshine Coast. codinginnovationhub.com

The **DeLorean Project** at Glasshouse Christian College allows Year 10 students to learn entrepreneurial approaches like lean startup, rapid prototyping and customer validation. deloreanproject.com.au

Student successes

- Chancellor State College's RoboGEMS team won the 2017 Queensland State FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Competition for their Kitchen Top Helper, an autonomous irrigation system that could be used as a household counter top herb garden.
- RoboGEMS member Sarah Eisenmenger returned from the Girls in STEM Power camp in Brisbane as the 2018 female STEM ambassador.
- RoboGEMS won the 2018 Mayor's Telstra Technology Awards with their Kitchen Top Helper. RoboKings from Chancellor State College placed second with their design Deuce, an automatic tennis partner, and third place was awarded to Growing Smart from Mountain Creek State High School with their farm land irrigation system.
- RoboKings have won the National Robotics Title two years in a row and were world champions at the First Lego League Razorback Invitational in 2017.
- In 2018, RoboGEMS teamed-up with male students to create RoboRoyals who won the Queensland FLL titles followed by the Australian National FLL Robotics Championships.
- Ray Steele from Nambour State College, a finalist in the 2018 Mayor's Telstra Technology Awards, won the 2018 Generation Innovation challenge with his Driving Mate concept which offers incentives for people to put their phone away behind the wheel.

Where to learn more about innovation and enterpreneurship

TAFE Queensland East Coast

- Certificate III Information and Digital Media Technology - Entrepreneurship and innovation

University of the Sunshine Coast

- Innovation and Management Decision Making
- Entrepreneurship and Venture Planning
- Leveraging Innovation, Design and Creativity
- Corporate Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Additional resources

Bright Sparks
sparkbureau.org/bright-sparks

Study Sunshine Coast
studysunshinecoast.com.au

TAFE Queensland East Coast
tafeqld.edu.au

University of the Sunshine Coast
usc.edu.au

CQUniversity
cqu.edu.au

Sunshine Coast Regional Innovation Program (#SCRIPT)
sunshinecoastinnovation.com.au