

Who can run a U3A class or activity?

Anyone can run a U3A class or activity or lead an interest group. We emphatically stress that no formal qualifications are required. The only prerequisite is a desire to share your skills and knowledge with others. Some U3A's use the term 'tutor', for a person who runs a class or activity, however, this word has formal connotations, so we prefer to use the term 'leader' or 'facilitator'.

U3A runs entirely on the efforts of volunteers to bring interesting, educational fun and stimulating activities to our members. A team of facilitators is absolutely vital to ensure all members are offered a variety of activities. We cannot exist without facilitators and their involvement is very much appreciated. The U3A Riverland Management Committee exists to support both our membership and our facilitators.

All facilitators are autonomous. They design their classes/activities to suit what they are able to offer and fit into their lives. The size of a class, the frequency it is held, and the duration is all up to the individual facilitator.

An activity could be held once a week, or even fortnightly or monthly. It can run for once a year. It can be offered at any time during South Australian school terms. We allow generous breaks between terms to avoid facilitator burn out. This also ensures that the grandparents amongst us have plenty of time for grandchildren during school holidays. Program Schedules are distributed four times a year ahead of a new term.

What activities can be offered?

A quick look at other U3A websites will provide an indication of the vast range of topics or activities that can be offered: bush walking, cooking, debates, religions of the world, skills for the home gardener, poets corner, researching family history – it's endless. Often, people don't know what they are interested in until a class is offered.

If you are a U3A member with a special interest that is not currently represented in our program, why not consider offering a class? If you already know how to do something, you can simply share your skills and knowledge with others in a very informal, casual way. We can provide support, and have access to 'train the trainer' sessions if required. The only administration involved is keeping an attendance record.

Why not give it a go? It could be the most fun you have had in U3Ages!