**2021 Summer Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | Theory of mind development in children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. |
| **Positions available:** | **1** |
| **Project duration and delivery** | Please outline the length of the project.     * Approx. 25hours per week * 8-10 weeks (negotiable) * Mix of remote and in-person |
| **Description:** | **Title:** The role of early intervention on theory of mind (ToM) development in children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.  **Background:** ToM is foundational for children’s social development. Research has demonstrated a strong link between ToM and language development, such that delayed or disordered language hinders the development of ToM. Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (D/HoH) and exposed to sign language from D/HoH parents develop ToM typically, yet D/HoH children born to hearing parents receive reduced language input and demonstrate ToM delay (Peterson, Wellman & Slaughter, 2012; Peterson & Wellman, 2009).  This study will examine whether exposure to early intervention mitigates ToM delays for children who are D/HoH. This is imperative given that advancements in hearing technology (e.g., cochlear implants) and improved access to early intervention. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | Scholars will gain experience in research design, testing and analytic techniques in developmental research. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to applications from students enrolled within the School of Psychology, UQ. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Aisling Mulvihill |
| **Further info:** | Should potential applicants have questions about the scholarship, they are welcome to contact Aisling Mulvihill via email ([a.mulvihill@uq.edu.au](mailto:a.mulvihill@uq.edu.au)) prior to submitting an application. |
| **Will you be collaborating with an external organisation on this project (for example NGO, government agency or private industry)?** | Some of the data may be collected from a Brisbane based not-for-profit organisation that provides early intervention services to individuals who are D/HoH and their families. |