**UQ Summer or Winter Research Project Description**

Please use this template to create a description of each research project, eligibility requirements and expected deliverables. Project details can then be uploaded to each faculty, school, institute, and centre webpage prior to the launch of the program.

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| **Project title:** | **Micro Facial Expressions** |
| **Project duration, hours of engagement & delivery mode** | 10-Weeks with 20 hours per week. The applicant will be required on-site for the project to record data in the laboratory |
| **Description:** | Facial Electromyography (EMG) is a method of recording the electrical activity of muscles when they contract when people make facial expressions. Facial EMG can measure a variety of expression muscles from the levator labii superior (crinkling of the nose accompanied by feelings of disgust) to the lateral frontalis (pulling up of eyebrows when surprised). However, most EMG research has focused on two muscles in particular—the zygomaticus major (i.e., the muscle that pulls the corners of the mouth into a smile) and the corrugator supercilii (i.e., the muscle that furrows the brow and pulls the eyebrows together into a frown). Activity of these muscles is typically indicative of real-time changes in emotional feelings. For example, zygomaticus major activity increases and corrugator supercilii activity reduces when participants report more positive affect; the inverse holds for experiences of negative affect.  In this project, scholars will learn the basics of recording facial EMG, the underlying neurophysiology, and specific applications of EMG to measure emotional responses. We aim to collect data while each participant completes tasks about automatic facial mimicry, emotional stimuli (e.g., video clips), crying stimuli, and facial poses. Some of these tasks should replicate previous studies, whereas others will be novel. Scholars will record facial EMG data from participants, analyse the data, and then use statistical methods (jamovi) to test hypotheses about the tasks. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | Scholars may gain skills in data collection, be involved in specific tasks, and have an opportunity to generate publications from their research. |
| **Suitable for:** | Scholars should have completed their second or third years in psychology and taken at least one course in neuroscience (as well as taking NEUR3272 is preferable). |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Eric Vanman |
| **Further info:** | Before submitting an application please contact Dr. Vanman for a brief interview at e.vanman@psy.uq.edu.au |