**2022/2023 Summer 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:** | **How do we learn to fear?** |
| **Project duration, hours of engagement & delivery mode** | 10 weeks during Summer Vacation.  ~ 30 hours per week. The project will be completed on-site at the School of Psychology at the University of Queensland, St Lucia. |
| **Description:** | Fear is a learned behaviour and is designed to protect us from harm. But sometimes the fear response we have to specific stimuli is excessive, persistent, and non-functional, and this is known as a phobia. Because phobias are very common, this project aims to better understand how fear responses develop, by investigating association-based affective learning. Of particular interest is whether *gaze cues* might act to condition fear. The results will not only have important theoretical implications, but also potentially important clinical ones by helping to understand the development of phobias, and how they might be treated. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | The study provides an excellent opportunity to work as part of a large team over the summer period: to gain experience in experimental design, administration of standardized assessments, recruitment, and testing. They will also be invited to act as a confederate for a separate PhD study, and to attend lab meetings with the larger group and in doing so learn about conducting research more generally. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project will be best suited to a third- or fourth-year psychology student with an interest in continuing with research (e.g., honours or PhD). |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Professor Julie Henry. |
| **Further info:** | If you would like to chat further about the project, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with Julie via email: julie.henry@uq.edu.au |