**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:** | **Seeing fearful expressions: how expectations interact with awareness** |
| **Project duration, hours of engagement & delivery mode** | Duration of the project,: 10 weeks during Summer Vacation.  Hours of engagement: 20hrs per week  on-site attendance is required for this project. |
| **Description:** | A great deal of electrophysiological and brain imaging studies have investigated the interactions between awareness and emotion processing. A consensus has emerged indicating that some degree of unconscious processing of emotional faces can occur.  However, an important aspect has been overlooked: that of is expectation.  Indeed, an unexpected threatening stimulus may break into awareness more readily than an expected stimulus. This occurs because hypotheses are continuously generated about the environment, and top-down signals that are inconsistent with a predictions may enhance perceptual processes.  The current project addresses this issue using electrophysiology (EEG/ERP). In this study will examine whether the awareness of emotionally expressive faces is modulated by expectations. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | Scholars will learn how to carry out EEG recordings and data acquisition. They will participate in data analysis and may be asked to participate in publishing data from their research. Students will be asked to present their work at a lab meeting at the end of their project. |
| **Suitable for:** | Students in Psychology or Life Sciences in their 3rd year, who have an interest in pursuing an Honours degree. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | A/Prof Alan Pegna |
| **Further info:** | Please contact the primary supervisor by e-mail for information about the project before applying ([a.pegna@uq.edu.au](mailto:a.pegna@uq.edu.au)) |