**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:** | **Intuitive genetics: Do our faces carry information about our genetic relationships?** |
| **Project duration, hours of engagement & delivery mode** | *Duration of the project:* 10 weeks during Summer Vacation.  *Hours of engagement:* 25 hrs per week  *COVID-19 considerations:* Aspects of the project can be completed under a remote working arrangement, on-site attendance will be required for testing participants. |
| **Description:** | The structure of the human face allows it to signal a wide range of useful information about a person's gender, identity, mood, etc. The goal of this project is to determine whether facial structure also signals ancestry. Anecdotally, we often think we look like our biological parents and kin, and previous research has shown that nonhuman primates can recognize the faces of genetically-related individuals, but kin recognition in humans is poorly understood. In addition to kin recognition being an interesting phenomenon to study in itself, understanding how it is accomplished will shed light on how humans recognize and evaluate faces and more generally.  *Specific aims and approach:* Step one will be to build a large stimulus set of images depicting various people belonging to different families. Then we will use these photographs to determine whether human participants can accurately group unfamiliar people into families based on facial features alone. The central hypothesis (i.e., that we can recognize kin) will be tested using multiple experimental tasks. Data will be collected remotely and in the laboratory. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | The successful applicant will acquire skills in curating and preprocessing a large set of visual stimuli. They will be expected to learn how to set up behavioural experiments and they will gain experience in collecting data from participants. Ideally, the applicant will also have the opportunity to help prepare their data for publication. They may also be asked to produce a report or oral presentation at the end of their project. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to applications from students with a keen interest in social cognition, vision science or data science.  Coding experience with matlab or python is desirable but not necessary.  3rd – 4th year students only (except in rare circumstances). |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Jess Taubert |
| **Further info:** | Students considering applying for this project are encouraged to contact **Jess Taubert** via email prior to submitting their application.  Email: j.taubert@uq.edu.au |