**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.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project title:** | **Episodic foresight and emotion across the life span** |
| **Project duration, hours of engagement & delivery mode** | * 25-30 hours week
* 8-10 weeks
* On-site attendance is required for face-to-face participant data collection. Some components can be done remotely.
 |
| **Description:** | Episodic foresight is the ability to mentally project ourselves into the future, to allow us to act in adaptive future-oriented ways in the present. Research has found that this essential ability declines as we age. Given how critical episodic foresight is in our day-to-day lives (think planning dinner, managing finances, taking medications), any decline in our ability could have important implications for our capacity to function autonomously, as well as broader implications for our quality of life. To date episodic foresight has primarily been examined using neutral stimuli. The goal of this project is to examine how emotion impacts episodic foresight using a behavioural paradigm (Virtual Week- Emotional Foresight). This is a computer game where participants are required to identify and solve common daily problems as they move around an online board. Our goal is to establish whether the presence or absence of emotional content is an important determinant of episodic foresight capacity at different stages of the adult lifespan. This project will involve recruiting two groups of participants from the community (65+ and 40-65 years of age) and conducting 90-minute face-to-face research sessions with these participants where they complete the virtual week task and several measures of cognitive functioning. We are hoping to recruit approximately 40 participants. There will also be some cleaning and preparing of data for analysis. This project is run in collaboration with Professor Julie Henry’s research lab  |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | Scholars will gain skills in conducting face-to-face research and online data collection methods for longitudinal studies. They will also be introduced to longitudinal data analysis methods.  |
| **Suitable for:** | We are looking for 1 highly motivated student to assist with this project over the summer. It would be most suited to a 3rd or 4th year student who is interested in ageing, and/or prospection and emotion research. All necessary training will be provided.  |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Fiona Maccallum |
| **Further info:** | If you have any questions about the project, please feel free to email Dr Fiona Maccallum (f.maccallum@uq.edu.au) or Prof Julie Henry.  |