**UQ 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 does normal adult ageing influence social cognitive function?** |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | This project will be conducted on site at the UQ St Lucia campus and will involve 25 to 30 hours per week. |
| **Description:** | Social cognition refers broadly to our ability to detect, understand and respond appropriately social cues in our environment. This includes understanding what others are thinking (i.e., theory of mind) and being able to recognise what someone is feeling (i.e., emotion recognition). There is a large literature now showing that normal adult ageing is associated with declines in some domains of social cognition (Grainger et al., 2023). However, nearly all of the studies in this literature have used cross-sectional designs, therefore it is not possible to draw any causal inferences regarding the nature of age-related social cognitive change. This project aims to establish the first longitudinal assessment of social cognition by recruiting a large sample of older adults and following them over the next decade. |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | *All scholars will be trained in administering neuropsychological and social cognitive assessments, and will gain valuable skills in participant recruitment and data collection.* |
| **Suitable for:** | *This project would be best suited to a 3rd year psychology student with an interest in cognitive aging or social cognition.* |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Sarah Grainger |
| **Further info:** | If you would like to chat more about this work, please get in touch at s.grainger@ uq.edu.au |