**UQ Winter 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:** | **The relationship between empathy and sensitivity to pain-related facial expressions.** |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | Hours of engagement: 20-30 hours per week, between 30 June – 25 July 2025.  The project will be offered primarily on-site, with some components of the work able to be completed remotely. |
| **Description:** | *Background:* The emotional valence of a facial expression is thought to influence a person’s approachability; we are more likely to approach someone who is happy, and more likely to avoid someone who is scared or fearful. However, in this context, facial expressions associated with pain are not well understood. Previous research has indicated that individuals expressing intense pain, non-verbally, are more likely to be helped by observers but it is not clear whether pain-related facial expressions would elicit help from any observer. The goal of this exploratory project is to determine whether sensitivity to pain-related facial expressions is correlated with empathy.  Aim: We aim to set up an experiment that will measure the potential relationship between sensitivity to pain-related facial expressions and empathic and altruistic behaviour. |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | Scholars will gain skills in stimuli curation, experimental design, Qualtrics task creation, and data collection. They may also have the opportunity to assist in subsequent data analyses. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to applications from students with a background in psychology, preferably 2nd or 3rd year psychology undergraduate students. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Associate Professor Jessica Taubert. |
| **Further info:** | If applications wish to contact the research team for further information, please send correspondence to the following email: j.taubert@uq.edu.au |