**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:** | **Reward-based decision-making across different age groups.** |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | This project will be run over four weeks (30 June – 25 July 2025). Hours of engagement will be 36 hours per week. The project will primarily be offered on-site but there is some scope for flexibility for completing certain parts of the project remotely. |
| **Description:** | Reasoning and learning are often thought to be grounded in “cold” systematic evaluation of evidence. However, humans frequently deviate from rational choice and make decisions that are impacted by simple heuristics and emotion. In this project, we are interested in how manipulations of task and decision environments impact people’s predictions, choice confidence, appraisal of decision outcomes, and ultimately, the choices they make. We will evaluate the influence of these manipulations in terms of prospective metacognitive judgement (expected outcome and confidence), retrospective valence (how do you feel about X), and choice behaviour.  We aim to investigate (1) how sequential presentation of information predicting a win/loss impacts people’s appraisal of decision outcomes, (2) cognitive and metacognitive differences in how people perform based on receiving feedback from experience (watching an outcome occur; catching or failing to catch a ball) vs. description (reading “you caught the ball” as text), and (3) sensitivity to the magnitude and distribution of rewards. |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | Scholars will gain skills in age-appropriate study and task design, data collection with different age groups, conducting preliminary reviews of literature, and data processing and analysis. |
| **Suitable for:** | The project is ideally suited for a 2nd or 3rd year Psychology student interested in cognitive and developmental research. Scholars must be willing to obtain (or already have) a Blue Card (working with children clearance). |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr David Sewell |
| **Further info:** | If you have any questions, please contact David Sewell ([d.sewell@uq.edu.au](mailto:d.sewell@uq.edu.au)). Contact prior to submitting an application is strongly encouraged. |