**UQ Summer Research Project Description - 2026**

*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:** | **Generative artificial intelligence and behavioural science approaches to youth vaping and prevention** |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | The successful scholar will be required to work on this project for **36 hours** per week for **6 weeks** (12 Jan – 20 Feb 2026). On-site attendance at St Lucia UQ campus is preferred. 1 position is available. |
| **Description:** | This project explores how generative artificial intelligence (AI) and behavioural science can be used to reduce nicotine use and promote healthier behaviours among young people. We will be building on our recent *JAMA Network Open* study which showed that youth co-designed AI-generated materials were perceived to be just as effective as those developed by official health agencies. Potential projects that you will contribute to include: * Running an RCT to evaluate the effectiveness of AI-generated health materials delivered in real world settings.
* Designing and testing whether tailored AI-generated messages are more persuasive than generic AI-generated messages for vaping prevention and cessation.
* Conducting a global systematic review on the prevalence and health impacts of nicotine pouch use.
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| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | By working on this project, you will develop a strong understanding of behaviour change theories and their application to youth substance use. You will build practical skills in systematic reviewing and experimental research, while also learning how to use AI tools to design, test, and evaluate persuasive health communication materials. Along the way, you will engage with the ethical and cultural issues that arise when applying AI in public health. By the end of the project, you will have contributed to innovative research outputs that aim to make a real difference to youth health policy and practice. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to students with a background in psychology, public health, or related fields. It is especially suited to 3rd and 4th year students who are considering Honours or a PhD in areas such as behavioural addiction, substance use, or health communication. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Tianze Sun |
| **Further info:** | Applicants who would like to apply or to ask any further information can contact Dr Tianze Sun at tianze.sun@uq.edu.au |