**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:** | **Insert the name of project**  **Exploring children’s emerging social reasoning** |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | For the Summer program, students will be engaged **for 6 weeks only**.  For the Winter program, students will be engaged **for 4 weeks only**.  Hours of engagement must be between 20 – 36 hrs per week and must fall within the official program dates (Summer = 12 Jan – 20 Feb 2026).  Please outline if the project will be offered on-site, remotely or through a hybrid arrangement.  *This will be a primarily on-site project as it will involve working directly with children. As children and carers are often available on weekends, any applicants should be prepared to work on weekends as well as weekdays.* |
| **Description:** | Please insert a project description to give applicants a comprehensive overview of the project.  *For example, this may include a program background, aim, hypothesis and/or approach.*  *As adults, we often engage in complex social and moral reasoning. For example, if you notice someone act in a mean way, you might wonder whether this was intentional, and/or whether something outside of their control made them act in that way. Young children, however, do not always integrate these kinds of factors into their social judgments. For the present project, we will explore how and when children begin to consider contextual factors in their social judgements. We will work with children around pre-school aged to middle childhood to explore how their reasoning about social outcomes changes with age.* |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | Please highlight what applicants can expect to gain/learn from participating in the project, and what they will be expected to complete as a part of the project.  *For example, scholars may gain skills in data collection, be involved in specific tasks, or have an opportunity to generate publications from their research. Students may also be asked to produce a report or oral presentation at the end of their project.*  *Students will gain experience working with children directly to answer questions about social cognitive development. In addition, they will gain experience in key parts of a research study including study design, literature review, and processes related to data collection and storage. Student may be part of a publication of the study, if one eventuates. Students will be encouraged to present their work at the Developmental Lab Group meeting.* |
| **Suitable for:** | Please highlight any particular qualities that individual supervisors are looking for in applicants to assist with the selection process.  *For example, this project is open to applications from students with a background in chemistry or 3rd – 4th year students only.*  *Suitable for students who have previous experience working with young children, and preference will be given to students who have experience running research studies with children (though this is not essential).* |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Please insert supervisor name.  *Shalini Gautam* |
| **Further info:** | If you would like applicants to contact your unit for further information, please provide the relevant contact details here.  \*\*Please highlight if the supervisor wishes to be contacted by students prior to submitting an application.  *Please contact me if you are interested:*  *Shalini Gautam*  [*s.gautam@uq.edu.au*](mailto:s.gautam@uq.edu.au) |