**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:** | **A meta-analytic review of the relationship between social connectedness and social cognition.** |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | We will conduct an initial training for this project on campus but the majority of the work can be completed remotely.  |
| **Description:** | *Social cognition refers to the skills involved in detecting, understanding and responding to social information in our environment, and includes capacities such as emotion recognition and theory of mind. Recent theorizing has suggested that breakdowns in these capacities may lead to poorer social connectedness. This has been somewhat supported in the empirical literature but the results are mixed and the strength of this relationship is not clear. Therefore, we aim to conduct the first meta-analysis of this literature to establish whether this is indeed a robust relationship, and whether the relationship is moderated by important demographic and task features, such as age (e.g., older age or adolescence) and ecological validity of the task (e.g., dynamic vs static stimuli).* |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | *As a summer scholar working on this project, you will be primarily involved in the screening of the articles using software designed for meta-analysis, and potentially data extraction (i.e., finding precise results and entering into a spreadsheet). You will gain an in depth understanding of how social cognition and social connectedness are typically measured in this literature. There may also be an opportunity to be formally included as a co-author on the published work.*  |
| **Suitable for:** | *This project would be most suited to a 3rd or 4th year student with an interest in meta-analysis, or social cognition/social connectedness.*  |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr. Sarah Grainger |
| **Further info:** | If you would like to know any more about this project, please email me at: s.grainger@uq.edu.au |