**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:** | **Cannabis in Australia. How did we get here?** |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | This project will be offered for 6 weeks, 12 Jan – 20 Feb 2026 at 36 hrs per week.The project will be offered in a hybrid capacity, split between on-site at St Lucia campus and remote work from home as suits the student. |
| **Description:** | Cannabis policy and perceptions have been shifting dramatically, transforming from something that was seen as a dangerous drug to being a prescribed medicine. Because of these rapid shifts, it is important to understand how people use cannabis, what forces shape our perceptions of cannabis, and what role the media plays in this.To further our understanding this project will take a multi-prong approach. The successful student will work on a number of projects that will:* Collect data from medicinal cannabis users to map what drives their cannabis use
* Understand how medicinal cannabis helps or hinders symptom management
* Map how the media discusses cannabis, and how this is shaping policy to and the legal status of cannabis

In addition to the above, there will be opportunities for the successful student to contribute to other projects if they wish to broaden their experience beyond cannabis. There is space for two students to contribute to this project. |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | Students will learn to:* Form hypotheses and design studies to address these
* Create instruments to collect data
* Apply for and comply with ethics and other regulatory requirements
* Conduct searches of newspapers and other media
* Thematically analyse qualitative data
* Work collaboratively with other scholars and researchers

It is expected that the student will:* Contribute to papers if the projects reach that stage
* Discuss their progress in regular team meetings with other student scholars and researchers
* Create experimental material that may form the basis of an honours project
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| **Suitable for:** | Suitable for 3rd or 4th year students with great attention to detail. The project is particularly useful for students looking to undertake honours in 2026. No prior research experience is required or expected. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Daniel Stjepanovic |
| **Further info:** | If you would like to have a chat about this opportunity please reach out d.stjepanovic@uq.edu.au.  |