**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:** | **Remembering to remember: Prospective memory function in everyday life**  |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | This project offers the opportunity for two 6-week summer research scholarships, **for which a hybrid arrangement is possible**. The successful applicants will be expected to complete up to 36 hours/week, with the option for any correspondence with the supervisor to be completed via zoom/email, or in person at UQ.  |
| **Description:** | Prospective memory (PM) is the fundamental neurocognitive capacity that allows us to form a future intention and then remember to execute that intention at a later point in time, or to ‘remember to remember’. Our daily lives are filled with numerous trivial tasks that depend on PM, such as remembering to switch off a light, or to check how much milk is left in the fridge. However, many other planned intentions can have more serious consequences if not fulfilled in a timely manner, such as remembering to take medication, to check food cooking, to turn off appliances, or to pay bills. Such PM failures compromise a person’s ability to live independently and have emerged as one of the strongest personal risk factors for nursing home placement in late adulthood. Despite the critical importance yet fallibility of PM in so many everyday contexts and at all stages of the lifespan, current understanding of the nature and determinants of *real-life* PM function is at best partial. Of the many hundreds of PM studies, most have been lab-based, involving artificial tasks administered by strangers against the backdrop of a sterile, unfamiliar environment. To truly understand PM function, it is critical to assess people in their real environments and on the PM tasks that form part of their actual, daily lives. In service of this, our team has recently developed MEMOReal,a ground-breaking smartphone app that allows PM tasks to be measured in people’s everyday environments. The successful applicants will assist with pilot testing this app to ensure its functionality in assessing PM capacity across the adult lifespan, as well as ensure suitability of associated material and scoring system.  |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | The successful applicants will have the opportunity to develop valuable skills in study recruitment and testing, as well as gain an understanding of the PM literature and the importance of ecological validity in measure design.  |
| **Suitable for:** | We have two positions available for 3rd or 4th year students with great attention to detail, organisation, and interpersonal skills. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr. Julie Henry |
| **Further info:** | If you would like to know more about this project or have any questions, please contact the project supervisor at julie.henry@uq.edu.au. If you are interested in this role, it is recommended that you book a meeting prior to applying.  |