

UQ Winter 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.

Project title:	Story of my life: How early social interactions shape loneliness in adulthood
Hours of engagement & delivery mode	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 36 hours per week • 4 weeks • Some of the tasks will be able to be completed remotely, but stable internet connection will be required. The ideal candidate will be able to complete work both on-site (at the UQ St Lucia campus) and virtually.
Description:	Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the scientific literature on loneliness has experienced significant growth. Despite this, much is still to be known about how the social experiences we have early in our lives shape our attitudes, feelings, and approaches to social connection in adulthood. This project explores both quantitative and qualitative (e.g., people's stories from their social lives) data to better understand the different ways in which people make meaning of their interactions with others and how this links to their sense of social self.
Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:	The Winter Scholar will learn about various methodological approaches, such as working with traditional survey data (e.g., Likert scale questions), analysing written narratives, and bringing together existing research in the literature to conduct a meta-analysis.
Suitable for:	Students who are genuinely considering a potential career in research. No existing skills are needed, but the project requires a high level of attention to detail. Students of all levels of study are welcome to apply, as long as they are eligible based on the UQ Winter Scholar policy.
Primary Supervisor:	Dr Kana Imuta
Further info:	--