

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:	Children’s memory recall and cognitive offloading strategies
Hours of engagement & delivery mode	The project will run for 4 weeks (29 June – 24 July 2026), with one position offered. The successful applicant will be required to be available at UQ’s St Lucia campus throughout the project. The project will involve approximately 20-30 hours of engagement per week.
Description:	Most studies of children’s working memory require them to recall information in forwards or backwards order, instead of giving them a choice over which items to recall first. It therefore remains unknown whether children can prioritise high-value memory information, which might require sophisticated metacognition. In this study, children aged 4 to 9 years will complete a tablet-based memory task in which they can choose to recall high- and low-value items in any order they wish, and on some trials, they will have the option of “saving” memory items as a form of cognitive offloading. We are interested in whether memory recall and offloading strategies vary as a function of item value and age.
Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:	The student researcher will gain experience in data collection from caregivers and children who visit Queensland Museum or the Early Cognitive Development Centre during the winter school holidays. They will also gain experience in data cleaning, data analysis, and interpretation of results.
Suitable for:	The project is open to applications from students who have completed at least 2 years of their undergraduate psychology degree. Applicants must have a strong background in developmental and cognitive psychology, as well as an interest in children’s memory and metacognition.
Primary Supervisor:	Dr Kristy Armitage
Further info:	The applicant must have a current Blue Card or be in the process of obtaining one. Please email Kristy Armitage (k.armitage1@uq.edu.au) before applying.