



2027 Summer Research Project Template

Help us present your project in a way that connects with the right students. Thoughtful, engaging descriptions tend to attract stronger and more suitable applications. Thank you for putting a project forward - these programs rely on your contribution, and we couldn't do it without you.

Section	Description
Project title	Social identity and addiction: Building group-based pathways to recovery
Hours & delivery	Hours are 20 – 36 hours per week, on campus or work from home, Duration is 6 weeks between 11 January and 19 February 2027
About the project (150–250 words)	Addiction is increasingly understood as shaped not only by individual factors but by group memberships, social identities, and the social contexts people move through across the addiction cycle from vulnerability, initiation, escalation/dependency, and recovery/relapse. This project builds on an active program of work applying the social identity approach to understanding and intervening in addiction. The research aim is to understand how identity-based principles, such as group belonging, identity change, and identity threat or support, have been used to improve engagement, retention, and outcomes in addiction interventions? In this project, we will synthesise and analyse evidence on social identity processes in addiction interventions. This will involve for example through a systematic review, analysis of trial data, to inform how identity-based principles can be embedded in real-world programs. The student's input will directly extend this evidence base, with their work feeding into ongoing manuscripts, trial reporting, and program development
What you'll do (100-150 words)	• Conduct a focused literature search and synthesis on social identity approaches to addiction and recovery • Assist with coding and thematic analysis of qualitative and/or trial data (e.g., acceptability data of an intervention) • Contribute to drafting sections of manuscripts, reports, or resource materials • Meet regularly with the supervisory team to discuss progress, refine methods, and interpret findings • Assist with general research tasks as required (e.g., data management, referencing, ethics documentation)
What you'll learn (100–150 words)	• Practical skills applying social identity theory to real-world health and behaviour-change contexts • Systematic/scoping literature search and synthesis methods • Exposure to trial-based intervention research, including acceptability and process evaluation • Qualitative and/or quantitative data analysis and interpretation skills • Academic writing and scientific communication, including contributing to manuscripts • Insight into translating psychological theory into applied clinical and organisational interventions • Experience working within a collaborative research team and engaging with real clinical/community data



Project outcomes (75–125 words)	• A synthesis or summary report on social identity-based principles relevant to addiction interventions • A contribution to a manuscript, resource, or presentation (e.g., conference abstract, co-authored paper section)
Who should apply? (75–125 words)	• Students from psychology or related behavioural/health science disciplines in their 3rd or 4th year • Interest in addiction, health psychology, or social psychology • Strong written communication skills and attention to detail • Comfortable working with sensitive topics and data (AOD, mental health) professionally and confidentially • Familiarity with research methods (e.g., coursework in research methods/statistics) is helpful but not essential • Self-motivated, able to work both independently and as part of a team
Team & supervision (75–125 words)	• Under the supervision of Dr Zoe Walter, Senior Lecturer and part of the SIGN group. • Regular supervision meetings (e.g., weekly or fortnightly), plus informal support from the broader research team • Opportunity to engage with SIGN group
Additional opportunities (optional)	• Potential co-authorship on resulting publications or conference presentations • Opportunity to join lab meetings or research seminars • Possible pathway into Honours or PhD research in this area
Additional requirements (if applicable)	No additional requirements anticipated beyond standard SRP requirements
Contact	Yes, students may contact the supervisor before applying. Direct enquiries to: z.walter@uq.edu.au