



## 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project title</b>                        | Creating digital tasks to capture children's mental time travel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Hours &amp; delivery</b>                 | You will be expected to work approximately 25-30 hours per week from 11 <sup>th</sup> January to 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2027. Work will be primarily in person and take place at the St Lucia campus. You will need to be available to complete majority of these hours over the weekend as this is when children are available for testing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>About the project</b><br>(150–250 words) | Humans have a unique capacity to mentally re-visit the past and pre-visit the future which allows us to imagine many ways the future may transpire and how past events could have happened differently. This ability supports learning, planning, decision-making and navigating social situations. Over the years, developmental researchers have explored when this capacity develops, but we still know relatively little about how individual differences shape this ability and how this may differ across cultures. To address these research questions, we are designing digital tasks that aim to reliably measure children's mental time travel capacities. This summer research project will involve assisting in collecting data with Australian children to pilot digital versions of already established traditional tasks that measure past and future thinking. By being involved in this project you will be helping us design tasks that can later be used in cross-cultural research, with neurodiverse populations, and can eventually be upscaled to measure mental time travel in older children, adolescents, and adults. |
| <b>What you'll do</b><br>(100-150 words)    | As part of this project, you will be involved in running some experiments with children in the Early Cognitive Development Centre. Your primary responsibility will be recruitment and data collection. This will involve sending email invitations to caregivers or handing out flyers in the community, scheduling sessions and running testing sessions. In addition, you will be responsible for inputting children's responses into a dataset and learning how to store data securely. You will receive training on how to run the experiments, recruit families and code data. There will be opportunities to attend meetings with the wider team to discuss project progress.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>What you'll learn</b><br>(100–150 words) | You will gain insight into how researchers measure cognitive capacities in children. In addition, you will learn about and follow ethical procedures in psychology research, specifically research that involves young people, and practice the UQ processes related to data collection and data storage. Further, you will learn how to communicate with caregivers about what the research means and why it is important. Overall, by being involved in this project you will develop an understanding of the work that goes into running a study which will prepare you for an Honours research project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Project outcomes</b><br>(75–125 words)   | By the end of the summer research project, you will have helped with refining task designs, contributed to data collection and inputted children's responses into a dataset. You will write up a brief summary of the research study that is sent out to families in the ECDC's annual newsletter. Overall, you will have contributed to the overall progress of this research project, which may eventually lead to journal publications and being presented at conferences.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Who should apply?</b><br>(75–125 words)  | You are currently enrolled in your 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> year of the Psychological Science degree and it is required that you have completed PSYC2030: Developmental Psychology. You should have a general interest in child development and cognition. Preference will be given to students who have previous experience working with children (but not essential) and holds a valid blue card.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |



|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Team &amp; supervision</b><br>(75–125 words)   | You will work directly with Ally Jones, a researcher working in the Early Cognitive Development Centre. Ally will schedule weekly check in meetings with you and provide appropriate support to make sure you are comfortable running the experiments with children and confident communicating with families. You will need to attend an induction with the ECDC manager, Sally Clark, and will be in contact with her for recruitment. There will also be opportunities to attend meetings with the broader ECDC team. You will have access to an ECDC computer lab during the Summer Scholar period. |
| <b>Additional opportunities</b><br>(optional)     | There may be additional opportunities to network with other academics and PhD students who work in the Early Cognitive Development Centre. You may be involved in future publications of the research in journals or at conferences, if this eventuates.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Additional requirements</b><br>(if applicable) | A valid blue card.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Contact</b>                                    | Yes, students may contact the supervisor before applying.<br>Direct enquiries to: <a href="mailto:ally.jones@uq.edu.au">ally.jones@uq.edu.au</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |