



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	Focusing on families: Evidence-based approaches to youth justice
Hours & delivery	20-25 hrs per week, 11 January - 19 February 2027. Scholar can work on campus or remotely, with flexibility regarding hours worked.
About the project (150–250 words)	Youth justice is a pressing issue in Australia, with major consequences for young people, families, victims, communities and public expenditure. Although public debate often focuses on punitive responses, research points to the importance of prevention, rehabilitation, and family- and community-based supports. This project brings together researchers through the Parenting and Family Research Alliance to develop a collaborative piece on evidence-based approaches to youth justice. It draws on expertise across crime prevention, public health, child development and economics, with a focus on practical approaches that can support safer communities and better outcomes for young people and families. The scholar will contribute to the project through activities such as literature review, evidence synthesis, general research and writing support. The work may consider recent research, economic evidence, and developments in the Queensland and Australian youth justice context. The precise focus will be shaped collaboratively as the project progresses. This is an opportunity to contribute to timely, policy-relevant work while gaining experience in multidisciplinary research and knowledge translation.
What you'll do (100-150 words)	Tasks and responsibilities may include: Contributing to literature searches and reviews; locating and summarising relevant academic and grey literature; helping to examine current statistics, economic evidence and policy developments; and supporting the organisation and synthesis of material. The scholar may also contribute to drafting, editing, reference checking, and other research tasks as needed. They will work collaboratively with the supervisor and wider project team, with tasks adapted to the needs of the project and, where possible, the scholar's interests and skills. There may also be opportunities to help communicate findings or develop related research and policy outputs. Guidance and feedback will be provided throughout the placement.
What you'll learn (100–150 words)	The scholar will gain practical skills in literature searching and review, evidence synthesis, policy-relevant writing, and collaborative research. They will develop experience working with journal articles, government reports, statistics and economic evidence, and considering the quality, currency and relevance of different sources. The project will also build skills in organising research material, reference management, academic editing, and communicating complex evidence clearly. Through regular guidance and feedback, the scholar will gain insight into how researchers from different disciplines contribute to a shared piece of work and translate evidence for policy and practice audiences. The placement will provide broad experience of the processes involved in developing a collaborative research output.
Project outcomes (75–125 words)	The scholar will contribute literature summaries, research notes, written material and other outputs that support the project team's collaborative work on evidence-based approaches to youth justice. The precise outputs will depend on the stage and needs of



	the project, and may include syntheses of evidence, contributions to written sections, reference checking, or materials for communicating the work. The scholar will be asked to produce a brief report and oral presentation at the end of the placement. They may also have an opportunity to contribute to related academic or policy outputs.
Who should apply? (75–125 words)	This project is open to applications from 3rd or 4th year psychology students, and may also suit students in related areas such as criminology, public health or social policy. Applicants should have sound academic writing skills, be comfortable searching for and reading research literature, and have good attention to detail. An interest in youth justice, child and family wellbeing, prevention, or evidence-informed policy would be valuable. Experience using a reference-management program such as EndNote is desirable but not essential. Applicants should be able to work independently between regular supervisory meetings and respond constructively to feedback.
Team & supervision (75–125 words)	The project will be supervised by Dr Carys Chainey at the Parenting and Family Support Centre, in collaboration with members of the Parenting and Family Research Alliance and the wider project team. The scholar will work directly with Dr Chainey and receive regular guidance and feedback, with opportunities to engage with other researchers where useful. Scholars who wish to undertake the scholarship on campus will be situated at the Parenting and Family Support Centre and work alongside scholars, PhD students and academics from the Centre.
Additional opportunities (optional)	The scholar may have opportunities to contribute to academic or policy outputs and to network with researchers working across parenting and family science, crime prevention, public health, child development and economics. Any authorship will be considered in line with their contribution and standard authorship criteria.
Additional requirements (if applicable)	None
Contact	Yes, students may contact the supervisor before applying. Direct enquiries to: c.chainey@uq.edu.au