



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	A human-centred approach to improving parenting support training
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)	Evidence-based parenting support (EBPS) can improve outcomes for families, but its impact depends on training that builds practitioners' skills and confidence. Training needs to be easy to understand, relevant to practice, engaging, and responsive to practitioners' needs. This project uses a human-centred design approach to examine practitioner feedback on evidence-based parenting support training. Drawing on feedback from practitioners who completed EBPS training, qualitative analyses will explore perceived strengths and weaknesses of the training, along with practitioners' suggestions for improvement. Quantitative analyses will examine which aspects of usability are most strongly associated with improvements in practitioners' skills following training. The scholar will contribute to dataset preparation, quantitative and qualitative analysis, literature review, academic writing, and the preparation of publication-quality tables and figures. The findings will be used to develop practical recommendations for making practitioner training more usable and effective, and to prepare a collaborative paper for submission.
What you'll do (100-150 words)	Tasks may include: Cleaning, preparing and documenting project datasets; examining missing data, normality and scale reliability; and conducting descriptive analyses, correlations, paired-samples t-tests and regression analyses. The scholar may conduct qualitative thematic analysis of practitioners' perceptions of the training's strengths and weaknesses and suggestions for improvement. They will contribute to reviewing literature on practitioner training, human-centred design and usability; writing up methods and results; and preparing publication-quality tables and figures. Tasks will be allocated according to the needs of the project and, where possible, the scholar's interests and skills. The work will be undertaken collaboratively with the supervisor and wider project team.
What you'll learn (100–150 words)	The scholar will gain practical experience in preparing and analysing mixed-methods research data. Quantitative skills may include dataset cleaning, missing-data checks, descriptive statistics, reliability and normality assessment, correlations, paired-samples t-tests and regression. Qualitative skills may include coding practitioner feedback, developing themes, and synthesising perceptions of strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for improvement. The scholar will also develop skills in literature searching and review, academic writing, interpretation of findings, and preparing publication-quality tables and figures. Through regular guidance and feedback, they will learn how human-centred design and usability principles can be applied to evaluate and improve professional training, and how researchers collaborate to develop a paper for publication.



Project outcomes (75–125 words)	The scholar will contribute to a prepared and documented dataset, quantitative analyses, and a thematic analysis of practitioner feedback. They will produce summaries of relevant literature and contribute to written methods, results and other sections of a collaborative paper. They may also prepare publication-quality tables and figures and help develop practical recommendations for improving the usability of practitioner training. The scholar will be asked to produce a brief report and oral presentation at the end of the placement. They may have an opportunity to contribute to the resulting academic publication.
Who should apply? (75–125 words)	This project is open to applications from 3rd or 4th year psychology students. Applicants should have sound academic writing skills, good attention to detail, and confidence using SPSS. They should be comfortable working with quantitative data and interpreting statistical results. An interest in qualitative analysis, human-centred design, implementation science, professional training, or evidence-based parenting support would be valuable. Prior experience with regression, t-tests or thematic analysis 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 the wider project team. The scholar will work directly with Dr Chainey and receive regular guidance and feedback on data preparation, analysis and writing. There may also be opportunities to engage with other researchers involved in the project. 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 an opportunity to contribute to an academic publication, with authorship considered in line with their contribution and standard authorship criteria. They will also be able to learn from and network with researchers working in parenting and family science, implementation, human-centred design and usability.
Additional requirements (if applicable)	None
Contact	Yes, students may contact the supervisor before applying. Direct enquiries to: c.chainey@uq.edu.au