2027 Summer Research Project Template

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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	Provide a **clear and engaging title** that captures the focus of your research. Aim for a title that is **concise while still sparking interest**. This is often the first impression students will have of your project. Understanding Employees Everyday Stress at Work
Hours & delivery	Projects must align with **program dates** and involve **20–36 hours per week**. Please specify the weekly **hours**, delivery **mode** (On campus, Hybrid or Online), and **campus** or **location**. If known, include typical **working days or hours** to help students understand the expected commitment. The project will involve approximately 25 hours per week over the six-week program. Delivery will be hybrid, based at St Lucia campus. Students will meet regularly with A/Prof Courtney von Hippel and with each other, with meeting times arranged around everyone's availability. There are no fixed daily working hours, and most work can be completed independently at times that suit the student. Most work can therefore be undertaken remotely, although students should be available for scheduled project meetings and weekly on-campus discussions.
About the project (150–250 words)	Describe your project in **accessible language** so students from relevant backgrounds can understand it. **Explain the research question** or problem, **why it matters**, and the broader **aims** and **context** of the work. Indicate how the **students' input** will contribute to this. Workplace stress is common, but employees can experience very different kinds of stressful events, from excessive workloads and time pressure to interpersonal conflict, difficult interactions with managers or clients, and mistakes or unexpected problems. Understanding what kinds of events employees find stressful, and whether people respond differently to different types of stressors, can help us better understand how everyday workplace experiences affect employee wellbeing. This project uses data from a large daily diary study in which employees completed surveys at the end of each workday. On days when participants experienced a stressful event, they briefly described what happened, reported how they coped with the event, and completed measures of their wellbeing and work experiences that day. We have more than 1,000 brief descriptions of naturally occurring workplace stressors. The aim of this summer research experience is to develop a systematic way of classifying these stressful events so that we can examine which types of stressors are most common and, in future analyses, whether different stressors are associated with different coping responses and outcomes. Students will play an important role in developing and applying the coding framework. They will review event descriptions, help refine clear coding categories, independently classify events, and contribute to assessing the consistency and reliability of the coding system.

What you'll do (100-150 words)	Outline the **key activities students will undertake** throughout the project. Students will work with employees' brief descriptions of stressful workplace events collected in a daily diary study. We will first work together to refine a clear coding framework for different types of workplace stressors. Students will then independently apply this framework to the event descriptions, recording the relevant category or categories for each event. Because two students will be coding the same material, we will be able to assess how consistently the coding framework is being applied and refine it where needed. Students will also help document coding decisions and examples in a codebook and assist with preparing a clean coded dataset. Finally, students will assist with preliminary descriptive analyses.
What you'll learn (100–150 words)	Describe the **skills and experience students will gain** from participating in the project. Students will gain hands-on experience working with real-world psychological research data and learn how researchers systematically transform open-ended responses into data that can be analysed quantitatively. They will develop skills in qualitative coding, creating and applying a coding framework, documenting coding decisions, and assessing inter-rater reliability. Students will also gain insight into daily diary research and research on workplace stress, coping, and employee wellbeing. The project will provide experience with the practical decisions involved in preparing complex data for analysis and will strengthen attention to detail, consistency, critical judgement, and collaborative research skills.
Project outcomes (75–125 words)	Briefly describe the **expected outputs or achievements** by the end of the project. By the end of the project, we will have a clear, well-documented coding framework for classifying everyday workplace stressors, together with a fully coded dataset of employees' brief stressful-event descriptions. We will also assess agreement between the two coders to establish the reliability of the coding system and produce a final codebook containing category definitions and examples. Finally, we will generate descriptive summaries of the most common types of workplace stressors, providing the foundation for subsequent analyses of how stressor type relates to coping and employee wellbeing.
Who should apply? (75–125 words)	Describe the **attributes** that would make a student a good fit for the project. This may include **relevant disciplines** or **year level**, as well as **useful skills** or **coursework**. You can also highlight **interests** and **personal qualities** that would support success. This project is suitable for undergraduate psychology students who are interested in research and would like hands-on experience working with real psychological data. Strong attention to detail is especially important, as the project involves applying coding rules systematically across a large number of brief stressful event descriptions. Students should be detail-oriented, reliable, and comfortable making consistent judgements based on written information. An interest in workplace psychology and/or stress and wellbeing would be helpful. No prior experience with qualitative coding is required.
Team & supervision (75–125 words)	Provide details about the **supervision and research environment**. Include the supervisor's name and position, as well as the research group or lab. You should also indicate **who students will work** with during the project. The project will be supervised by Associate Professor Courtney von Hippel in the School of Psychology. Students will work primarily with Courtney throughout the six-week project, with regular opportunities to discuss the coding framework, resolve ambiguous cases, and review progress. The project also involves international collaborators. Before full coding begins, we will have an online meeting with the broader research team (located in Germany) to present and discuss the proposed coding framework and receive feedback on the categories and coding approach.

Additional opportunities (optional)	Describe **any additional opportunities associated** with the project, such as presentations, networking, or publications, pathways into ongoing research or further study. These experiences can **help students understand the broader value** of participation.
Additional requirements (if applicable)	List **any other specific requirements** students should be aware of before applying. This may include safety training, field work, licences, checks, etc.
Contact	(**Yes**), students (**may**) contact the supervisor before applying. Direct enquiries to: _c.vonhippel@psy.uq.edu.au_____