



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	Who am I now? Understanding social identity process in the transition to parenthood
Hours & delivery	Hours: 20 hours per week Mode: Flexible — online, on campus, or a mix of both Location: UQ St Lucia / remote Working days: Flexible (no fixed days required)
About the project (150–250 words)	What is this project about? Becoming a parent is one of life's biggest transitions. Alongside the practical changes that come with caring for a new baby, new parents can experience profound changes in their sense of self. An important part of this sense of self comes from the social groups we belong to, our <i>social identities</i>. The Social Identity Model of Identity Change (SIMIC) suggests that staying connected to important groups while also building new group connections can help people adjust to life change, provided these existing and new groups are compatible with one another. There is evidence for these processes in other contexts of life change, but we know relatively little about how changes in group memberships and social identities shape adjustment to parenthood. This project aims to identify and synthesise existing research on this topic to establish what we know, where the gaps are, and key questions for future research. In doing so, it will lay the groundwork for future research on how we can better support people through the transition to parenthood.
What you'll do (100–150 words)	You will help conduct a scoping review of social identity and group membership in the transition to parenthood, including searching and screening the literature, extracting and synthesising findings, and mapping the evidence against the Social Identity Model of Identity Change (SIMIC). You will also help identify gaps and priorities for future research.
What you'll learn (100–150 words)	You will gain hands-on experience conducting a scoping review, from developing the strategy through to evidence synthesis and interpretation. You will also learn how social psychological theory can be applied to understand real-world health and wellbeing challenges.
Project outcomes (75–125 words)	By the end of the project, we aim to have completed the key stages of a scoping review, including literature searching, screening and data extraction, and developed an initial synthesis of the evidence.
Who should apply? (75–125 words)	This project would suit a student interested in social psychology and life change adjustment. No previous experience conducting a scoping review is required, but strong organisation, attention to detail, and a commitment to conducting high-quality research are important. Familiarity with the Social Identity Approach to Health and SIMIC would be an advantage.
Team & supervision (75–125 words)	You will work under the supervision of Dr Crystal La Rue, a Research Fellow in UQ's School of Psychology, with weekly check-ins throughout the project.



Additional opportunities
(optional)

NA

Additional requirements
(if applicable)

NA

Contact

Yes, students may contact the supervisor before applying.

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