



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	Why do some drink and others don't? A neurodivergent perspective.
Hours & delivery	Up to 36 hours, St Lucia hybrid. The successful scholar will be provided with a desk and computer for the duration of the summer program.
About the project (150–250 words)	Substance use in neurodivergent populations is often overlooked. Autistic individuals, for example, are less likely to drink. But when they do, their drinking is more likely to lead to problems. This project wants to answer the question: Why do some autistic people choose drink and others don't? In addition to the above, there will be opportunities for the successful student to contribute to other projects if they wish to broaden their experience.
What you'll do (100–150 words)	Students will review the literature to identify what has been learned on this topic. They will help to convene an advisory group to co-design this research program. They will help to create study materials.
What you'll learn (100–150 words)	Students will learn to conduct systematic reviews. They will learn to design study materials to answer a research question and research aim. They will how co-design informs research design.
Project outcomes (75–125 words)	An understanding of the literature on substance use in autism, and the establishment of an advisory group to drive future research.
Who should apply? (75–125 words)	Suitable for students with an interest in health or clinical psychology, and an interest in substance use or neurodivergence as research areas. No prior research experience is required, all necessary skills will be taught during the project.
Team & supervision (75–125 words)	Dr Daniel Stjepanovic (Senior Research Fellow) will be the direct supervisor. Students will collaborate with other scholars and researchers at the National Centre for Youth Substance Use Research and School of Psychology.
Additional opportunities (optional)	Students will take part in networking events with Metro North to advance this project.
Additional requirements (if applicable)	None
Contact	Yes, students may contact the supervisor before applying. Direct enquiries to: d.stjepanovic@uq.edu.au

