



2027 Summer Research Project Template

Section	Description
Project title	Who am I after brain injury? Mapping identity, adjustment and recovery after acquired brain injury
Hours & delivery	Approximately 28 hours per week, Hybrid. Students may work across The University of Queensland and STARS hospital (Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service), Herston, with some research activities able to be completed remotely. Working days can be negotiated, although students will be expected to attend regular project meetings and work collaboratively with the research team and the other Summer Scholar.
About the project (150–250 words)	Acquired brain injury (ABI), including traumatic brain injury and stroke, can change much more than a person's physical or cognitive abilities. It can also disrupt a person's sense of who they are, their relationships, roles, belonging and expectations for the future. Changes to identity are increasingly recognised as an important part of adjustment and psychological wellbeing after brain injury, but the research literature is diverse and has not yet been brought together in a way that readily informs clinical practice. This project forms part of a broader program of research examining identity reconstruction after ABI and developing practical ways for rehabilitation clinicians to better understand and support identity-related change. Two linked scoping reviews are underway. One examines how identity change after ABI has been conceptualised and experienced, while the second examines how identity has been measured, assessed and addressed in clinical interventions. The Summer Scholar/s will join the research/clinical team to help systematically review and map this literature. Their work will directly contribute to the development of the reviews and to the next stages of a clinically focused research program.
What you'll do (100–150 words)	Student/s will work together with the research team across different stages of the scoping review process. Activities may include: • screening research articles against predefined eligibility criteria; • reviewing and organising full-text papers; • extracting and checking data using structured templates; • identifying how identity is defined, conceptualised, measured or addressed in rehabilitation research; • categorising studies according to populations, methods, theories, measures and interventions; • contributing to synthesis tables, figures and visual maps of the literature; and • participating in regular research meetings to discuss findings and resolve screening or extraction decisions.
What you'll learn (100–150 words)	This project will provide hands on experience in conducting a rigorous scoping review, from applying eligibility criteria through to data extraction, synthesis and interpretation. Students will develop practical skills in literature searching and management, systematic screening, critical reading of research papers, research data organisation



and evidence synthesis. They will gain experience using review software (Covidence) and working collaboratively within a research team.

Students will also develop knowledge of acquired brain injury, neuropsychological rehabilitation, psychosocial adjustment and emerging research examining identity and wellbeing after neurological injury.

Importantly, students will see how a broad body of research is translated into clinically meaningful questions and future studies. This is particularly suited to students in or considering Honours, postgraduate psychology, rehabilitation, health research or research higher degrees.

Project outcomes
(75–125 words)

By the end of the Summer Research Program, students are expected to have made a contribution to the screening, extraction and synthesis stages of the two linked scoping reviews.

Outputs may include completed evidence extraction datasets, summary tables, conceptual maps and synthesis of key findings relating to identity after acquired brain injury.

This project would particularly suit students studying psychology. Students do not need previous experience conducting a systematic or scoping review. We are looking for students who are curious, reliable and comfortable working carefully with detailed information.

Who should apply?
(75–125 words)

Strong written communication, organisation and attention to detail will be valuable. An interest in neuropsychology, rehabilitation, mental health, identity, adjustment to illness or qualitative research would also be helpful.

The project would be particularly valuable for students considering Honours, postgraduate psychology or a future research degree, and who would like practical experience working within an active clinical research program.

Team & supervision
(75–125 words)

The project will be supervised by Dr Elizabeth Beadle, Clinical and Neuropsychologist, Conjoint Research Fellow for Psychology, within the STARS Education and Research Alliance (SERA), a partnership between The University of Queensland and Metro North Health.

Students will work within a multidisciplinary clinical research environment focused on improving rehabilitation outcomes for people with acquired brain injury.

The broader identity research program includes collaborators with expertise in neuropsychological rehabilitation, identity, social connection and adjustment after brain injury. Students will work closely with Dr Beadle, the other Summer Scholar and members of the research team, with regular meetings providing opportunities for training, discussion and feedback throughout the project.

Additional opportunities
(optional)

Students will gain exposure to a hospital/university clinical research environment and have opportunities to meet researchers and clinicians working in neuropsychology, clinical psychology and rehabilitation.

Depending on project progress and the nature of each student's contribution, there may be opportunities to contribute to conference presentations and peer-reviewed publications arising from the reviews.

The project also provides a potential pathway into future research involvement with the team, including Honours, research assistant work and postgraduate research projects.



Additional requirements (if applicable)	No specific prior research experience or clinical training is required. Students will be expected to complete any standard UQ and/or Metro North Health orientation, confidentiality or research training required for their activities. Because the project involves detailed review of a large research literature, students should be comfortable with sustained computer-based work and able to work both independently and collaboratively.
Contact	Yes, students may contact the supervisor with a brief email enquiry before applying. Direct enquiries to: Dr Elizabeth Beadle; e.beadle@uq.edu.au