

2027 Psychology UQ Summer Research Project Description

Project title:	Bringing Euro-Sexo to Australia: Establishing an Australian Survey of the Sexology Workforce
Hours and Delivery	- Duration: 11th January – 19 February 2027 - 20-25 hours per week - Hybrid – meetings will be on St Lucia campus, but the work will predominantly take place online
About The Project	Sexology is the scientific study of human sexuality, and sexologists are the professionals (clinicians, educators, researchers, and therapists) who work in this field, often supporting people with sexual health, function, or wellbeing concerns. Sexology as a profession varies widely across countries in terms of how practitioners are trained, how they practise, and how they conceptualise their professional identity. The Euro-Sexo survey has been conducted in a number of European countries, surveying sexologists about their training and experiences. Australia currently has no equivalent picture of its own sexology/sex therapist workforce. This project will lay the groundwork for an Australian replication and expansion of Euro-Sexo, surveying sexologists practising in Australia. We intend to collaborate with sexology teaching institutions and professional membership bodies to support the project's credibility and help promote the survey to the sexology workforce once live.
What You'll Do	You will contribute to establishing a new research project surveying Australian sexologists. Core tasks include: researching and reaching out to potential university partners and professional bodies to introduce the project and explore collaboration and promotional support; preparing materials to support these conversations (e.g. project summaries, briefing documents); preparing and submitting a Human Research Ethics Application (HREC); building and testing the survey instrument in Qualtrics; conducting a literature review on sexology as a profession and existing Australian data; and preparing and delivering a short lab group presentation. You may also contribute to related qualitative research, depending on project needs and time.
What You'll Learn	You will gain practical experience initiating and building research partnerships and professional relationships, skills in human research ethics processes and HREC applications; survey design and platform-building using Qualtrics; and conducting a literature review on the sexology profession. You will also develop stakeholder communication, academic writing, and presentation skills, and will learn how large-scale professional surveys are set up and conducted.
Project Outcomes	By the end of the project, you will have contributed to outreach materials and initial conversations with prospective research partners, a submitted (or near-submission) ethics application, a fully built and tested Qualtrics survey, and a written literature review.
Who Should Apply?	We're looking for a student from psychology or a related discipline, ideally in later undergraduate years, who has an interest in sexual wellbeing and sexology. Strong written and verbal communication skills are important. Experience with Qualtrics is a bonus but not essential.
Team and Supervision	This project is formally supervised by Professor Fiona Barlow. Day-to-day supervision will be provided by PhD candidate and sexologist/psychologist Rosie Scott, who will support your progress and act as the main point of contact. As Rosie is part-time at UQ, you will need to be comfortable working independently between check-ins, managing your own time, and flagging questions proactively.
Additional Opportunities	You will have the opportunity to present your work to Fi Barlow's research lab – a friendly and supportive audience of researchers and higher degree students. Depending on the level and nature of your contribution, you may be considered for authorship on resulting publications (in line with standard authorship criteria), or otherwise acknowledged in outputs.

Contact	Students may contact Rosie Scott before applying. Enquiries to: rosie.scott@uq.edu.au .
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