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	**Improving Psychosocial Risk Assessment in Australian Workplaces**
Hours & delivery	20 hours per week 11 Jan – 19 February Hybrid arrangement
About the project (150–250 words)	Psychosocial hazards such as excessive job demands, bullying, poor support, sexual harassment, and exposure to traumatic events can have serious consequences for worker health, wellbeing, and organisational performance. Identifying these hazards is a critical first step in preventing psychological and physical harm at work. This project forms part of a broader program of research focused on redeveloping and validating one of Australia's leading psychosocial risk assessment tools. Since the survey was first developed, both the evidence base and workplace health and safety legislation have evolved, creating a need to review and update how psychosocial hazards are measured. The research combines literature reviews, expert focus groups, and large-scale survey research to evaluate and refine survey items and assess the psychometric performance of the revised instrument. The ultimate aim is to develop a shorter, evidence-based tool that supports organisations to identify psychosocial hazards and manage workplace risks more effectively. Findings will contribute to improved workplace health and safety practices and help organisations meet contemporary regulatory requirements.
What you'll do (100-150 words)	As this is an active and evolving research project, student activities will depend on the stage of the project and the student's interests and capabilities. Students may contribute to literature reviews examining psychosocial hazards, work-related mental health, and workplace health and safety, assist with the synthesis and organisation of focus group findings, support survey development activities, and contribute to data preparation and preliminary quantitative or qualitative analyses. There may also be opportunities to assist with reviewing survey items, summarising research evidence, and assisting with the preparation of research reports or industry presentations. Through these activities, students will contribute to the development and validation of a real-world workplace assessment tool while gaining experience in applied organisational psychology and occupational health research.
What you'll learn (100–150 words)	Students will gain practical experience in applied research focused on workplace mental health, safety, and wellbeing. Depending on their involvement in the project, students may develop skills in literature reviewing, qualitative research, survey design, scale development, psychometric evaluation, and data analysis. They will also gain insight into how psychological theory and evidence are translated into tools used by organisations, regulators, and practitioners to improve workplace outcomes. The project provides exposure to contemporary issues in psychosocial risk management, workplace mental health, and organisational assessment. Students interested in organisational

	psychology, human factors, workplace health and safety, research, or public policy will gain valuable experience contributing to a nationally significant project with practical applications for Australian workplaces
Project outcomes (75–125 words)	The project is expected to contribute to the refinement and validation of a revised version of a psychosocial risk assessment tool. Outputs may include updated survey items, summaries of expert feedback, literature reviews, and analyses supporting the evaluation of the survey's psychometric properties. Findings will inform the development of a shorter and more contemporary psychosocial risk assessment tool that aligns with current evidence and legislative requirements. Ultimately, the research aims to support organisations in identifying psychosocial hazards and implementing more effective strategies to protect worker mental health, safety, and wellbeing. Students will be asked to produce a report and oral presentation at the end of their time working with the project.
Who should apply? (75–125 words)	This project is open to applications from 3rd or 4th year students in Psychology with an interest in Organisational Psychology and quantitative and qualitative research
Team & supervision (75–125 words)	This project is led by Associate Professor Kirsten Way, an Organisational Psychologist and researcher in workplace mental health, safety, and wellbeing at The University of Queensland. Students will work closely with Kirsten and two postdoctoral research officers, gaining exposure to a multidisciplinary team with expertise in organisational psychology, occupational health and safety, and applied workplace research. Students will also become part of the PRISM (Psychosocial Risk and Safety Management) Lab, a supportive research community where they can engage in research discussions, connect with HDR students and postgraduate researchers, and develop research skills in a collaborative and intellectually stimulating environment.
Additional opportunities (optional)	As the project is co-funded by the industry partners students may also have opportunities for networking, presentations to stakeholders, and pathways into ongoing research opportunities.
Additional requirements (if applicable)	NA
Contact	Students are welcome to contact me (k.way@psy.uq.edu.au) if you would like further information about the project but there is no need to contact me prior to submitting an application.