



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	A meta-analytic review of the relationship between social cognition and social connectedness across the lifespan
Hours & delivery	This project will be offered either hybrid or on campus at St Lucia and will involve approx. 24 hours per week. Students can complete the hours when suits them best.
About the project (150–250 words)	Social connectedness is important for health and well-being at all stages of the lifespan. Social cognitive abilities refer to our capacity to attend to, detect, and understand social information, and are thought to be fundamental for broader social connectedness. However, there are a number of studies that have examined the relationship between social cognition and social connectedness and the findings appear to be mixed. It's also unclear whether social cognition and social connectedness are more strongly linked at earlier or later stages of the adult lifespan. We have started a meta-analytic review that aims to consolidate this literature and empirically test these relationships for the first time using meta-analysis. We have completed the screening and need two students to assist us with data extraction and additional tasks such as study quality analysis. Once these processes are complete, we will be able to analyse the data and write the study up for publication in a leading journal.
What you'll do (100–150 words)	A key focus of this project will be learning about meta-analysis and the stages involved in completing a meta-analytic review. You will be given specific tasks that need to be completed and will be given full training before undertaking any tasks. This may include extracting findings from published papers and adding them to an excel spreadsheet, or giving a study a 'quality rating' based on a specific criteria. You will work with another summer student on this project.
What you'll learn (100–150 words)	You will learn the basics in meta-analysis and gain new knowledge in the social cognition and loneliness literature. This project will provide an excellent foundation for an Honours project on the topic of social cognition, ageing, or loneliness.
Project outcomes (75–125 words)	These data will be included in a publication "A meta-analytic review of the relationship between social cognition and social connectedness across the lifespan" and will potentially be presented at conferences next year.
Who should apply? (75–125 words)	The project requires a very high level of attention to detail, patience, and ability to complete repetitive tasks. We would be particularly interested in students who are interested in normal adult ageing and/or social cognition or social connectedness. This project would be best suited to someone in their 3 rd year but we would be open to 2 nd or 4 th year students.
Team & supervision (75–125 words)	Dr Sarah Grainger will be the primary supervisor for this project. The student will work closely with her team, including Alana Topsfield (PhD candidate) and Jasmin Taylor (Research Assistant).



Additional opportunities (optional)	Describe any additional opportunities associated with the project, such as presentations, networking, or publications, pathways into ongoing research or further study. These experiences can help students understand the broader value of participation.
Additional requirements (if applicable)	There are no other requirements for this project.
Contact	Yes, students may contact the supervisor before applying. Direct enquiries to: Sarah Grainger (s.grainger@uq.edu.au)