



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	How do children reason about moral and social situations?
Hours & delivery	Students will be expected to work approximately 25 hours per week. This will include weekend work, as this is when children are available for testing. Work will be primarily in person and take place at the UQ St Lucia campus.
About the project (150–250 words)	This project seeks to examine how children reason about social situations and make social judgments. As adults, we often consider many factors when making social judgments. For example, we might consider whether someone had a choice over what they did, or if they intended for a particular outcome to occur. If we reason that someone had no choice, or the outcome occurred by accident, we may be more forgiving or less likely to attribute blame. Although young children are fairly good at judging whether a particular outcome is good or bad, research suggests they may not always consider these other important factors of social judgment. This project explores when and how these factors begin to influence children's judgments.
What you'll do (100–150 words)	As part of this project, students will test children in the Early Cognitive Development Labs at UQ. This will involve running the study with children and interacting with parents and families. In addition, students will be involved with helping with data coding for the project, such as inputting children's responses into excel for example. They may also be able to contribute to study design.
What you'll learn (100–150 words)	Students will gain experience working with children directly to answer questions about social cognitive development. In addition, they will gain experience in key parts of a research study including study design, literature review, and processes related to data collection and storage. Student may be part of a publication of the study, if one eventuates. Students will be encouraged to present their work at the Developmental Lab Group meeting.
Project outcomes (75–125 words)	Student may be part of a publication of the study, if one eventuates. Students will be encouraged to present their work at the Developmental Lab Group meeting.
Who should apply? (75–125 words)	Suitable for students who have previous experience working with young children, and preference will be given to students who have experience running research studies with children and have a blue card (though this is not essential).
Team & supervision (75–125 words)	Students will work directly with Shalini Gautam.
Additional opportunities (optional)	Working in the ECDC labs is a great way to meet other researchers interested in developmental psychology!



**Additional
requirements**
(if applicable)

A blue card

Contact

Yes, students may contact the supervisor before applying.

Direct enquiries to: s.gautam@uq.edu.au
