**2019-2020 Psychology UQ Summer Research Project Description**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project title:** | Verbal Fluency in Healthy and Pathological Ageing |
| **Project duration:** | * 6 weeks
* 36 hours/week
 |
| **Position/s available** | 2  |
| **Description:** | ·     The ability to generate verbal (and non-verbal) ideas, including conversational speech, are cognitive processes supported by the prefrontal region of the brain. These abilities decline with age and specific deficits can be characteristic of some neurodegenerative conditions. Neuropsychological tests that measure verbal fluency include word fluency tasks and spontaneous speech tasks (for background see Robinson et al. The differing roles of the frontal cortex in fluency tests. (2012). *Brain; 136:* 2202-2214; and Barker, M.S., Young, B. & Robinson, G.A. (2017). Cohesive and coherent connected speech deficits in mild stroke. *Brain and Language, 168*: 23-36). This project will involve analysis of verbal fluency tests administered to healthy middle aged and older adults, as well as those with a range of dementias including Alzheimer's disease.  |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | Scholars will gain skills in data collection, coding and analysis, and they may have an opportunity to generate publications. Students will be asked to produce a written report at the end of their project. |
| **Suitable for:** | Students with a keen interest in neuropsychology and complex cognitive processes with strong academic skills in coding, data analysis and writing.  |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Associate Professor Gail Robinson |
| **Further info:** | The scholars will be based at the UQ Neuropsychology Research Clinic, 39 Upland Road. |