**2020 Summer Winter Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | **Episodic foresight for emotional events** |
| **Positions available:** | **1**  |
| **Project duration:** | Duration: 8-10 weeksHours per week: 20-25 |
| **Description:** | Episodic foresight allows us to mentally project ourselves into the future, and subsequently act in adaptive future-oriented ways; it is thought to be a uniquely human ability. However, research has found that this essential ability declines as we age. Given how critical episodic foresight is in our day to day lives (think planning dinner, managing finances or taking medication as prescribed), any decline may have important implications for our ability to function autonomously, as well as broader quality of life. The goal of this project will be to adapt a validated measure of episodic foresight, “Virtual Week-Foresight (VW‑Foresight)” to include emotional content. This is a computer game where participants identify and solve common daily problems as they move around an online board. Our longer-term goal is to establish whether the presence or absence of emotional content is an important determinant of episodic foresight capacity at different stages of the adult lifespan.This project involves: a) creating novel scenarios that require episodic foresight which are inherently negative, positive and neutral, b) validating these novel scenarios via an online M-turk study c) being involved with reformatting the original V-W board game as necessary; and (d) piloting these scenarios on a small sample of younger and older adults (if this is possible, and time permits). |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | Scholars will gain skills in developing and norming experimental stimuli, operationalising research questions, and running online studies on external platforms.  |
| **Suitable for:** | We are looking for one highly motivated student to assist with this project over the summer. Although this project is open to all students, it would be most suited to a 3rd or 4th year student who is interested in ageing and/or prospection research. All necessary training will be provided. Applicants must have an excellent attention to detail, be able to work individually but also receptive and able to appropriately seek guidance from others. They must also have a reasonably high level of technical skills or be receptive to learning new technical skills.  |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Fiona Maccallum, Prof Julie Henry, Ms Shalini Gautam |
| **Further info:** | If you have any questions about the project, please feel free to email Dr Fiona Maccallum or Prof Julie Henry.  |