



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	Discharging from the Emergency Department: How Are Social, Functional and Environmental Contexts Considered in Clinical Decision-Making?
Hours & delivery	30 hours/week for 6 weeks. Delivery mode: Hybrid. Location: UQ and online. Typical hours to be agreed with supervisor.
About the project (150–250 words)	Emergency department clinicians make rapid decisions about whether patients can be safely discharged home or require ongoing hospital care. While clinical factors such as diagnosis and treatment response are important, discharge decisions may also be influenced by a patient's social, functional and environmental circumstances. For example, clinicians may need to consider whether a patient lives alone, has support from family or carers, can safely mobilise at home, and has access to transport and follow-up care. Older adults and people living with frailty may be particularly vulnerable to poor outcomes if these broader contextual factors are not adequately considered. This project will undertake a scoping review examining how social, functional and environmental factors are incorporated into emergency department discharge planning and discharge readiness assessment. The student will help identify, review and synthesise the evidence, map current approaches, and identify gaps for future research and inform improvements to discharge planning for vulnerable patients presenting to emergency departments
What you'll do (100-150 words)	Conduct literature searches in major databases; assist with title/abstract screening; review full-text articles; extract and synthesise data from included studies; contribute to evidence mapping and interpretation; participate in research meetings; and assist with preparing written summaries and a final presentation.
What you'll learn (100–150 words)	Students will gain practical experience in evidence synthesis, literature searching, critical appraisal, academic writing and research communication. They will learn the principles of scoping review methodology, data extraction and thematic synthesis. Students will also gain exposure to emergency medicine, health services research and research planning.
Project outcomes (75–125 words)	The primary outcome will be a scoping review report suitable for development into a manuscript, conference abstract or future research proposal. Students will prepare a written summary and oral presentation outlining key findings, evidence gaps and priorities for further research.
Who should apply? (75–125 words)	Suitable for motivated undergraduate students with interests in medicine, public health, nursing, psychology, allied health, ageing, health services research or related disciplines. Strong written communication skills, attention to detail and enthusiasm for research are desirable. Previous research experience is not required.
Team & supervision (75–125 words)	Primary supervisor: Annika Luebbe. Co-supervisor: TBC (emergency medicine clinician researcher). Students will work closely with the supervisory team and may interact with collaborators from emergency medicine and health services research.
Additional opportunities (optional)	Potential opportunities include contribution to future publications, conference abstracts, scholarly projects and ongoing research related to emergency department discharge planning, frailty and care coordination.



**Additional
requirements
(if applicable)**

N/A

Contact

Yes, students may contact the supervisor before applying.

Direct enquiries to: a.luebbe@uq.edu.au
