



## 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| <b>Project title</b>                        | Beyond Uptake: An Evidence Gap Map of Equity Across the Lung Cancer Screening Care Continuum                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Hours &amp; delivery</b>                 | 30 hours per week for 6 weeks. Delivery mode: On campus / Hybrid.<br>Location: UQ Thoracic Research Centre (UQTRC), The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH), Northside Clinical Unit, Chermside.<br>Typical working days: Monday to Friday, standard business hours                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>About the project</b><br>(150–250 words) | <p>Lung cancer screening (LCS) can detect curable cancer and reduce cancer-related mortality. However, access to screening and its benefits are not shared equally across populations. People from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, rural and remote communities, First Nations peoples, and other priority groups often face structural barriers to early lung cancer detection. These barriers may stop people from understanding their screening opportunities, returning for annual scans, and receiving timely follow-up, impacting long-term cancer outcomes. While existing research has focused on the first scan, equity gaps across the entire screening journey remain unclear.</p> <p>Using an emerging research methodology, this project will build an evidence gap map: a visual tool that shows where research on equity in lung cancer screening is strong, and where it is thin or missing entirely, across each stage of the screening pathway and among different priority populations. This map will directly inform the design of future, better-targeted research and policy, including work relevant to Australia's National Lung Cancer Screening Program.</p> |
| <b>What you'll do</b><br>(100-150 words)    | <p>The student will search, screen, and extract data from existing reviews and studies, help build the mapping matrix, and contribute to identifying and interpreting the key gaps, with genuine input into the project's findings and co-authorship on the resulting paper.</p> <p>The scholar will help us refine the review's population/concept/context framework and search strategy, and then conduct systematic searches across databases, including MEDLINE, Embase, CINAHL, and Scopus. Also, the scholar will support screening titles, abstracts, and full texts against agreed-upon inclusion criteria in Covidence, guided by the research team. Scholars will also extract data from included studies into a structured mapping matrix, then help populate and visualise the evidence gap map. In the final stage, the student will help interpret key gaps identified, contribute to drafting the manuscript, and prepare a short presentation of findings for the research team.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>What you'll learn</b><br>(100–150 words) | <p>You will develop hands-on skills in systematic search strategy design and title/abstract and full-text screening using Covidence, following PRISMA reporting standards. You will learn how to extract and structure data into a mapping matrix, and how to build and interpret an evidence gap map, an emerging visual synthesis method increasingly used in health policy and cancer control. You will also gain exposure to health equity frameworks as applied to cancer screening, and experience working within a multidisciplinary thoracic research team spanning implementation science, public health, and clinical practice, alongside opportunities to build collaborative networks across a leading research centre.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |



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| <b>Project outcomes</b><br>(75–125 words)         | By the end of the six weeks, the student will have contributed to a populated evidence gap matrix mapping equity research across the lung cancer screening continuum and delivered a short oral presentation summarising key findings and identified gaps to the supervising research team. The student will gain a completed, referenceable body of work suitable for future job or further-study applications, and the opportunity to build on this experience through continued involvement in the research program.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Who should apply?</b><br>(75–125 words)        | This project suits postgraduate students from public health, nursing, or related disciplines with an interest in cancer care, health equity, or evidence synthesis methods. No prior experience with systematic or scoping reviews is required, though familiarity with health literature databases (e.g., PubMed) is an advantage. Successful applicants will be detail-oriented, comfortable working independently on structured tasks, and enthusiastic about learning new methodologies. Strong written English and an interest in health policy or health equity are valued. This project suits students considering postgraduate research (Honours, Masters, or PhD) or careers in public health, clinical research, or health policy. |
| <b>Team &amp; supervision</b><br>(75–125 words)   | This project is based at the UQ Thoracic Research Centre (UQTRC), The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH), Chermside, and forms part of an active program of lung cancer screening and smoking cessation research. The student will be supervised by A/Prof Henry Marshall (Chief Investigator, Thoracic Medicine) and Dr Victor Gallegos-Rejas (Postdoctoral Research Fellow, UQTRC) and will work closely with the wider UQTRC research team, including clinical and academic collaborators across lung cancer screening, cessation, and telehealth equity research. Regular supervision meetings, team research meetings, and mentoring will support the student throughout the project.                                                       |
| <b>Additional opportunities</b><br>(optional)     | Students will have the opportunity to co-author a manuscript for submission to a peer-reviewed journal, present findings to the research team, and build networks across an active, multidisciplinary lung cancer screening and cessation research program. There may be opportunities for continued involvement in related UQTRC projects, including pathways into PhD research in lung cancer screening equity, implementation science, or health policy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Additional requirements</b><br>(if applicable) | This project is based at a Metro North Hospital site; students will need to complete additional onboarding requirements, such as an external research agreement. Dr Gallegos-Rejas will support students through this process.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Contact</b>                                    | <p>Yes, students must contact the supervisor before applying.</p> <p>Direct enquiries to: Dr Victor Gallegos – Rejas <a href="mailto:v.gallegosrejas@uq.edu.au">v.gallegosrejas@uq.edu.au</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |