

2022/2023 Summer Research Project Description

Project title:	‘Transforming Blends’: Integrating Technology into Teaching and Learning for Social Work Practice
Project duration, hours of engagement & delivery mode	<p>Project Duration: Summer Vacation 2022</p> <p>The project will be undertaken over 8 weeks during the Summer Vacation period [28th November – 17th February 2022] with a two week break for Christmas.</p> <p>Hours of engagement: 20-36 hours per week</p> <p>COVID-19 considerations: The applicant will be required to work on-site for the project.</p>
Description:	<p>Project Background</p> <p>The rapid transition to online teaching and learning in universities in the global pandemic context placed the focus on issues of access rather than on pedagogical design. There was little opportunity for social work educators to redesign courses taught face-to-face for online delivery in the emergency context. However, as educators transition back to face-to-face classroom delivery there is an opportunity to distil the learning from online teaching experiences and reflect on new ways to integrate technology into social work courses. Drawing on conceptualisations of blended learning, and specifically the notion of ‘transforming blends’ in course design (McGee and Reis, 2012), this project is a collaboration between a social work educator and an educational designer to explore how social work educators currently integrate technology in their teaching and learning practice, and how students use those integrated technologies to support their learning experiences. The project will identify in what contexts and for which course learning outcomes a blended learning approach can contribute to student-centred and meaningful learning as students acquire knowledge and skills for social work practice.</p> <p><i>Project Aims and Objectives:</i> The project draws on the concept of ‘transforming blends’ (McGee and Reis, 2012) to explore how social work educators currently integrate technology in their teaching and learning practice, and how students use those integrated technologies to support their learning experiences. The objective of the project is to identify the distinctive characteristics of blended learning in social work education that can pedagogically enhance teaching and learning practices in social work beyond pandemic conditions.</p>

	<p><i>Methodological Approach:</i> A Rapid Review (RR) of the literature (Cochrane Review) and a survey of social work educators on their use of technology in social work courses drawing on the learning from online teaching during pandemic conditions, and how students use integrated technologies to support their learning experience. Online experiences, challenges and opportunities will be canvassed.</p>
<p>Expected outcomes and deliverables:</p>	<p>The Summer Scholar will be expected to undertake a Rapid Review (RR) of the literature (Cochrane Review) following a protocol developed for the project, contribute to a UQ Ethics Application and the design of a Qualtrics survey.</p> <p>The Scholar will gain skills in the Rapid Review (RR) methodology, UQ Ethics Application and designing a Qualtrics survey. The student will be acknowledged in any papers submitted for publication or conference presentations as a result of the project.</p>
<p>Suitable for:</p>	<p>The project is open to 3rd or 4th year students only. While a background in social work is preferred, students in the health and behavioural sciences, social sciences or humanities are also encouraged to apply.</p>
<p>Primary Supervisor:</p>	<p>Dr Deborah Lynch Senior Lecturer, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work</p> <p>The secondary supervisor will be Dr Isaiah Awidi, Educational Designer and Adjunct in the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work.</p>
<p>Further info:</p>	<p>If applicants would like further information, please contact Dr Deborah Lynch on d.lynch@uq.edu.au</p>