**UQ Summer Research Project Description - 2026**

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| **Project title:** | PENGUIN trial: Peripheral Intravenous Catheter Glue in Newborns  |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | For the Summer program, students will be engaged **for 6 weeks only**.Hours of engagement must be between 20 – 36 hrs per week and must fall within the official program dates (Summer = 12 Jan – 20 Feb 2026).During the six weeks of engagement, students can be engaged Monday to Friday, with hours flexible as the programme progresses. For the first week, the hours need to be on campus at Children’s Health Research Centre, South Bank, with option to visit one of the sites. The scholar programme can occur any time between, as meets the student’s needs (12 Jan – 20 Feb 2026). |
| **Description:** | Please insert a project description to give applicants a comprehensive overview of the project. The PENGUIN Trial is the first multi-site RCT to evaluate the effectiveness of tissue adhesive for securing peripheral intravenous catheters (PIVCs) in critically ill newborns. PIVCs are essential in neonatal intensive care for delivering life-saving medications, fluids, and nutrition, yet more than one-third fail before treatment completion—interrupting therapy, increasing infection risk, and causing repeated invasive procedures. This trial, conducted across two tertiary neonatal intensive care units in Queensland (Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital and Sunshine Coast University Hospital), is generating urgently needed, neonatal-specific evidence to inform global practice.The Summer Scholar will join the PENGUIN trial team, working alongside the project manager to assist with coordination and implementation activities. As the study is being launched at its second hospital site during this period, the student will have the opportunity to assist with activities related to site initiation, including the development of educational tools, preparation of governance and ethics documentation, and support for implementation processes. Additional tasks may include preparing communication materials, supporting data organisation (REDCap) and quality assurance, reviewing relevant literature, and contributing to dissemination activities such as abstracts, posters, and presentations. The student will also gain insight into clinical trial operations, stakeholder engagement, and translation of evidence into neonatal practice.This project provides an excellent opportunity to work within a leading paediatric and neonatal research group at The University of Queensland, in collaboration with clinical partners at major Queensland hospitals. The scholar will develop skills in research management, scientific communication, and multidisciplinary teamwork, while contributing to a study with the potential to transform care for hospitalised newborns worldwide. |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | The Summer Scholar will gain valuable experience in the practical conduct of a multi-site clinical trial in neonatal intensive care. Specifically, they will:* Develop skills in research project management, governance processes, and ethics documentation.
* Gain experience in preparing educational and communication materials to support trial implementation at a new hospital site.
* Strengthen abilities in literature review, data organisation, and quality assurance processes.
* Build experience in scientific communication, including contributing to abstracts, posters, or other dissemination outputs.
* Work within a multidisciplinary research team, gaining exposure to stakeholder engagement and translation of evidence into practice.

As part of the program, the scholar will be encouraged to share their experience and learnings with the research team, for example through a brief report or informal presentation. Depending on the volume of their contribution, scholars may also have the opportunity to be offered authorship on group outcomes. In addition, they will be welcome to discuss and propose their own research question or project idea to the team during the program. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is suitable for students with an interest in paediatrics, neonatology, or clinical research. It would be particularly valuable for students from nursing, medicine, allied health, public health, or biomedical sciences. Applicants should demonstrate strong organisational and communication skills, and an enthusiasm for teamwork in a multidisciplinary environment. Prior experience in research is not required, but an interest in learning about clinical trials, evidence translation, and global child health will be highly regarded. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Sabrina de Souza |
| **Further info:** | Students are welcome to contact Dr Sabrina de Souza (s.desouza@uq.edu.au) for further information about the project. Prior contact is not required before submitting an application. |
| **Number of students** | One (flexible to accommodate two if there is strong interest). |