**UQ Summer Research Project Description - 2026***Please use this template to create a description of each research project, eligibility requirements and expected deliverables. Project details can then be uploaded to each faculty, school, institute, and centre webpage prior to the launch of the program.*

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| **Project title:** | **Experiences of children and families in the out-of-home care system** |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | * **12 January – 20 February 2026** (six weeks) * ~25 hours per week (flexible scheduling to fit around summer life) * Based at UQ’s beautiful St Lucia campus, with the option to negotiate some hybrid work. |
| **Description:** | Between 2021 and 2024, the *Enhancing Children's Journey Through Out-of-Home Care* study conducted more than **430 in-depth interviews** with children, carers, and parents. These conversations give a powerful insight into the out-of-home care system—voices that often go unheard.  As a summer scholar, you will step into this project at an exciting stage: helping to **analyse these rich, real-world stories** and translate them into research that can influence policy and practice. This is a rare opportunity to build research skills while working on a project that has direct impact for children and families experiencing vulnerability. |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | Summer Scholars will gain:   * Hands-on training in **qualitative research methods**. * Experience using **NVivo software**—a valuable skill for future research or honours projects. * Skills in **critical analysis and academic writing** * Confidence in writing **literature reviews** and contributing to **journal articles**. * A deeper understanding of the child protection system and the resilience of children and families.   Deliverables are:   * Significant contributions to the completion of two journal articles on children and family’s journeys through out-of-home care. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is a great fit if you are:   * A current undergraduate or postgraduate coursework student in **social work, psychology, counselling, social sciences, or nursing.** * Curious about **children’s and families’ lived experiences** in vulnerable contexts. * Keen to develop research and writing skills that will assist in your degree and beyond. * Motivated, organised, and able to work collaboratively.   Students with strong written communication skills and a passion for making a **practical difference** in people’s lives are encouraged to apply. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Professor Karen Healy and Dr Laura Simpson Reeves |
| **Further info:** | Please contact [laura.simpsonreeves@uq.edu.au](mailto:laura.simpsonreeves@uq.edu.au) to discuss your interest or if you have any questions. |
| **Number of students** | 1 or 2 |