**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.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project title:** | **Exploring Complexity in Intensive Care Patients: A Scoping Review** |
| **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).  This program will be offered in a hybrid format, requiring both on and off campus time. |
| **Description:** | The contemporary intensive care unit (ICU) is often described as a high-demand, labour-intensive, and high-intensity environment due to the complexity of the critically ill patient cohort. However, a clear definition of what constitutes a complex critically ill patient in the ICU is not evident in the literature. This study will employ is a scoping review design using JBI methods with the objective to explore the concept of a complex patient in the ICU. |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | **Objectives** The objectives of this project are to:   * Develop the student’s research capability in evidence synthesis methodologies. * Provide practical experience with tools and processes used in systematic and scoping reviews. * Build capacity for critical analysis and collaborative research within the project team.   **Learning Outcomes** By the end of this project, the student researcher will be able to:   * Apply advanced literature search strategies to identify relevant research evidence. * Use Covidence to manage the screening, data extraction, and review process. * Demonstrate skills in critically appraising and analysing extracted data. * Contribute to the synthesis of findings within a systematic or scoping review framework.   **Deliverables** The student researcher will produce:   * A completed screening of allocated journal articles. * Extracted datasets from selected articles, formatted for analysis. * Preliminary analysis of extracted data to support review synthesis. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to 2nd- or 3rd-year undergraduate students, as well as postgraduate students, from Nursing, dual-degree Nursing/Midwifery, or Medicine.  Required Skill Set   * Literature searching: Ability to conduct (with support) structured and advanced searches in academic databases. * Critical appraisal: Basic skills in evaluating the quality and relevance of research articles. * Analytical skills: Ability to extract, summarise, and synthesise data from multiple sources. * Familiarity with review tools: Willingness and ability to learn to use software such as Covidence for systematic or scoping reviews. * Attention to detail: Careful and accurate handling of data during screening and extraction processes. * Communication skills: Clear written and verbal communication for reporting findings and collaborating with the research team. * Time management: Ability to manage workload and meet project deadlines. * Teamwork: Capacity to work collaboratively within an interprofessional research team. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Annabel Levido |
| **Further info:** | Interested students can contact Annabel Levido ([a.levido@uq.edu.au](mailto:a.levido@uq.edu.au)) to discuss the project. |
| **Number of students** | 1 |