**UQ Summer Research Project Description - 2026**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project title:** | **Exploring measures of body morphology and implications for skin integrity in the acute hospital patient population: 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:** | During a hospital admission, patients are exposed to a variety of person-specific risk factors that increase skin vulnerability. Body morphology, adipose tissue distribution, and sex directly influence weight distribution when lying in a bed, and this has been identified as a potential factor to consider for loss of skin integrity for patients in the acute hospital setting. Currently, body morphology is not well defined in the literature and there is no standard classification for measuring overall body morphology. Therefore, the aim of this study is to map and synthesise how body morphology is defined, measured, and reported in relation to skin integrity and pressure injury (PI) outcomes among acute hospitalised patients, and to identify gaps to inform future research and clinical assessment. The JBI methodology will be employed, Covidence will be used to manage the data and the findings will be reported as per PRISMA-ScR guidelines. |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | The objectives of this scoping review are to:* Build the student’s capability in evidence-synthesis methods specific to scoping reviews (JBI; PRISMA-ScR reporting).
* Provide experience with tools and processes used in scoping reviews (protocoling, search translation, screening, data charting, synthesis, and reporting).
* Build capacity in collaborative research, reproducibility, and research data management.

The Learning Outcomes of this scoping review are 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 scoping review framework.

The deliverables of this scoping review are to:* Complete a screening of allocated records (titles/abstracts and full texts) with reasons for exclusion using Covidence and create a PRISMA-ScR flow diagram.
* Extract and clean dataset from included studies, formatted for analysis.
* Conduct a preliminary analysis of data to support a synthesis package: basic evidence tables and a 1–2 page summary to support the review.
* Collaborate with supervisor to prepare a manuscript for publication: PRISMA-ScR–compliant abstract, methods, results (descriptive mapping), discussion, and conclusion.
 |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to 2nd- or 3rd-year undergraduate nursing dual-degree Nursing/Midwifery, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy or Medicine students.The required skill set includes:* Ability to follow a structured search plan.
* Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
* The ability to work independently as well as collaboratively within a team.
* Analytical thinking to summarise key points and identify patterns and gaps.
* Proficiency with basic computer applications.
* Time management to meet weekly milestones and deadlines.
 |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Jessica Ingleman |
| **Further info:** | Interested students can contact Dr Jessica Ingleman (j.ingleman@uq.edu.au) to discuss the project.  |
| **Number of students** | 1 |