

## UQ Winter Research Project Description - 2026

<b>Project title:</b>	Student Experiences of self-directed practice opportunities within the Nursing/Midwifery program: A scoping review
<b>Hours of engagement &amp; delivery mode</b>	The project will be offered through a hybrid arrangement, with the student working offsite but coming in for occasional in person meetings. The project period is proposed for between the 29 June and the 24 July.
<b>Description:</b>	<p>Peer assisted, self-directed clinical skills practice has become an increasingly important component of nursing education, offering students opportunities to build skills, confidence, and autonomy outside traditional facilitated sessions. However, the extent, nature, and reported impact of these peer supported and self-directed activities on student confidence and perceived placement performance has not been comprehensively mapped.</p> <p>This project will conduct a scoping review to examine the existing research related to peer assisted and/or self-directed clinical skills practice among nursing students. Using a recognised scoping review framework (e.g., Arksey &amp; O'Malley; PRISMA<sup>ScR</sup>), the student will identify, chart, and synthesise published studies exploring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how nursing students engage in peer assisted or self-directed clinical skills practice</li> <li>• reported factors that influence confidence development during these activities</li> <li>• any described or theorised links between these practice approaches and perceived readiness or performance on clinical placement</li> </ul> <p>The review will provide an overview of what is currently known, identify conceptual and methodological gaps, and inform the development of future research and skills lab innovations that better support student learning and confidence building.</p>
<b>Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:</b>	<p><b>Learning Outcomes</b></p> <p>By participating in this project, the student will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop foundational skills in conducting a scoping review</li> <li>• Gain experience using research databases and structured search strategies</li> <li>• Learn how to screen, extract, and chart data using systematic review methods</li> <li>• Build competency in synthesising qualitative and quantitative findings</li> <li>• Strengthen academic writing, critical analysis, and evidence mapping skills</li> <li>• Engage in reflective discussions on nursing education, skills training, and student experience</li> </ul> <p><b>Expected Deliverables</b></p> <p>The student will produce:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A data charting table summarising included studies</li> <li>• A concise evidence synthesis outlining key themes, patterns, and gaps</li> <li>• A short written report or presentation summarising findings and recommendations</li> </ul> <p>If the review leads to a publishable manuscript, the student may be invited to contribute as a co-author.</p>
<b>Suitable for:</b>	<p>This project is suitable for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students enrolled in nursing and/or midwifery</li> <li>• Students with an interest in clinical education, pedagogy, research, or student learning experiences</li> <li>• Applicants who are organised, reflective, and comfortable discussing student perspectives in education</li> </ul> <p>No prior research experience is required, though basic familiarity with research methods is advantageous.</p>
<b>Primary Supervisor:</b>	Dr Thea Ogle
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