

UQ Winter Research Project Description - 2026

Project title:	<u>PENGUIN</u> trial: <u>P</u> eripheral <u>I</u> ntravenous Catheter <u>G</u> lue in <u>N</u> ewborn
Hours of engagement & delivery mode	<p>For the Winter program, students will be engaged for 4 weeks only.</p> <p>Hours of engagement must be between 20 – 36 hrs per week and must fall within the official program dates (29 June – 24 July 2026).</p> <p>During the four 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 (29 June – 24 July 2026).</p>
Description:	<p>The PENGUIN Trial is the first multi-site randomised controlled trial evaluating the effectiveness of medical-grade tissue adhesive/glue for securing peripheral intravenous catheters (PIVCs) in neonates. PIVCs are fundamental in neonatal care; however, high failure rates lead to treatment interruption, increased infection risk, repeated invasive procedures, and skin injury in an already vulnerable population. Conducted across tertiary neonatal intensive care units in Queensland, this trial is generating neonatal-specific evidence to inform clinical practice and policy. With both trial sites in Queensland now active and recruiting, the Winter Scholar will join the PENGUIN trial team during a critical implementation and data accrual phase. Working alongside the project manager and investigators, the student will support ongoing trial coordination, including monitoring recruitment metrics using aggregated data, tracking documentation processes, and assisting with site communication and implementation activities.</p> <p>A key component of the role will involve supporting data management and quality assurance processes under supervision and in accordance with governance and ethical requirements. This may include assisting with documentation tracking, preparation of site performance summaries, contributing to the development of data monitoring tools, and supporting regulatory and trial master file processes.</p> <p>The student may also contribute to literature reviews, preparation of abstracts and conference materials, and development of educational or communication resources related to neonatal vascular access practice. This placement offers hands-on exposure to Good Clinical Practice (GCP)-compliant trial conduct within a leading paediatric and neonatal research program at The University of Queensland. The scholar will develop skills in research governance, trial coordination, scientific communication, and multidisciplinary collaboration, while contributing meaningfully to a study with the potential to improve outcomes for hospitalised newborns globally.</p>

<p>Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:</p>	<p>The Winter Scholar will gain valuable experience in the practical conduct of a multi-site clinical trial during its active recruitment phase in neonatal units. Specifically, they will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop skills in research project management, trial coordination, and governance processes within an active clinical trial environment. • Gain experience in supporting site performance monitoring, including review of recruitment metrics. • Strengthen abilities in documentation tracking, regulatory file management, and quality assurance processes in accordance with ethical and governance requirements. • Contribute to literature reviews and support the preparation of abstracts, posters, or other dissemination outputs. • Work within a multidisciplinary research team, gaining exposure to stakeholder engagement, trial oversight, and translation of evidence into neonatal practice. <p>As part of the program, the scholar will be encouraged to share their experience and reflections with the research team, for example through a brief report or informal presentation. Depending on the scope and level of their contribution, there may be opportunities for authorship in accordance with standard academic guidelines. In addition, they will be invited to discuss and potentially develop a related research question or project idea with the team during the program.</p>
<p>Suitable for:</p>	<p>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 child health will be highly regarded.</p>
<p>Primary Supervisor:</p>	<p>Dr Sabrina de Souza</p>
<p>Further info:</p>	<p>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.</p>