**2019-2020 SHRS UQ Summer Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | **The effect of sleep on novel word learning in healthy adults** |
| **Project duration:** | * 6 weeks * 20 hours/week |
| **Position/s available** | 1 position |
| **Description:** | This research aims to provide information about how sleep can affect learning new words. Different factors can influence how new words are learned, with evidence emerging that sleep may have the potential to enhance novel word acquisition and consolidation. Knowledge from this project can help Speech Pathologists to better understand the optimal conditions for adults to learn new words and could potentially lead to better outcomes for adults with language difficulties after brain injury (e.g. aphasia). |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | The research scholar will gain skills in data analysis, including completing data entry, compilation, and checking tasks. Data for this project is collected from computerised word learning and cognitive tasks, and sleep-related questionnaires. Participant daily activity patterns are monitored via accelerometry and participant self-report.  The research scholar will also develop their understanding of different fields including language learning and memory, sleep, and normal ageing. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to applications from students currently enrolled in a bachelor or master’s degree in speech-language pathology or related field*.* |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Professor David Copland |
| **Further info:** | Please contact Professor David Copland ([d.copland@uq.edu.au](mailto:d.copland@uq.edu.au)) prior to submitting your application.  Apply via [UQ Advantage](https://employability.uq.edu.au/summer-research) |