**UQ Summer or Winter Research Project Description**

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.

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| **Project title:** | An investigation into the provision of allied health support for people living with endometriosis. |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | Duration: 4 weeks  Hours of engagement: 30 hours per week  Delivery mode: Hybrid arrangement \*Students will be able to complete some of the work in person and some remotely. It is expected that students attend the initial training and regular meetings in-person. This project will take place on UQ St Lucia campus. |
| **Description:** | Endometriosis is a disabling condition where endometrial like tissue may be found throughout a person’s entire body (Ye et al., 2022). Although commonly found in abdominal and thoracic regions, endometriosis has also been found in the brain, lumbar vertebra, conus medullaris, peripheral nerves, and nasal regions. This abnormal tissue growth can lead to numerous issues such as chronic pain, fatigue, mental illness, and infertility (Oral, 2022), significantly impacting on an individual’s ability to participate in their daily activities (Lozano-Lozano et al., 2021). Globally it is estimated to affect 190 million individuals born with female sex characteristics (Oral, 2022). Individual economic burden is also significant, with a recent survey indicating it costs $20,898 AUD per person per year (Armour et al., 2019).  Despite significant financial and overall costs on well-being, many gaps in research and practice remain. Much of the literature has focused on medical approaches, however, there has been more recent literature published indicating an important role for allied health professionals (Dempsey, 2022; Fang et al., 2023; Malik et al., 2022; Ugwumadu et al., 2017), including scope for occupational therapists (Lozano-Lozano et al., 2021). Despite the growing research which discusses the role of allied health professionals, many people experience this lifelong disabling condition with only limited support. Critical research is required which seeks to address this gap in research and practice.  Therefore this research aims to understand what support people with endometriosis have received from allied health professionals, as well as what people with endometriosis suggest to improve support provision. The student may be involved in reviewing literature, some writing tasks, article screening processes, and contributing to data analysis. |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | You will gain skills in at least one or more of the following: reviewing literature, data collection, data management, qualitative data analysis, and academic writing skills. There will also be the potential to be involved in a publication from the research project. |
| **Suitable for:** | We are seeking a highly motivated applicant with excellent organisational skills, a proactive approach, an interest in women’s health issues, attention to detail, and excellent written communication. Additionally, students will be enrolled in an allied health degree (e.g., occupational therapy, physiotherapy, psychology), and will have completed at least two (2) or more years of study including one (1) or more research focused courses (e.g., research methodology). |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Chloe Bryant |
| **Further info:** | If you would like further information, please contact Dr Chloe Bryant via email: [chloe.bryant@uq.edu.au](mailto:chloe.bryant@uq.edu.au) |

References:

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