

UQ Summer 2016 - 2017 Project Description

Due to rhadmin.shrs@uq.edu.au by Friday 17 June 2016 (if at all possible). The School needs to have this information returned to UQ Advancement by Thursday 23 June 2016.

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.

Project title:	Exploring the clinical progression of communication and swallowing impairment in patients with Motor Neurone Disease (MND)
Project duration:	6-8 Weeks
Description:	<p>Background and aim: Communication and swallowing impairments associated with MND are prevalent and debilitating symptoms of the disease that worsen as the disease progresses. Currently, there is no known cure and no effective treatment for MND. Therefore, under the guidance of speech pathologists, people with MND and their carers must adjust, compensate and manage rapidly declining swallowing function in order to maintain health-related quality of life. As there is limited information available regarding the progression of swallowing symptoms, clinicians are not well placed to anticipate problems. This project aims to examine the trajectory of decline of communication and swallowing function across the course of MND.</p> <p>Methods: This project is a mixed-methods study.</p> <p>Part 1 involves a retrospective chart review of consecutive patients attending a multidisciplinary MND clinic between 2003 and 2013 (Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and Prince Charles Hospital).</p> <p>Part 2 involves semi-structured interviews of people currently living with communication and swallowing impairments as a result of MND. This will enable recognition of all factors impacting the person living with communication impairment and dysphagia as a consequence of MND and better inform the nature of the services that are desired/required. Data collection is currently underway.</p> <p>Please note: It is also likely that the scholar will be involved in a number of additional multidisciplinary research projects.</p>
Expected outcomes and deliverables:	The role of the scholar will be to collate, analyse and write up quantitative and qualitative information with the assistance of the supervisory team. They will gain skills in data collection and analysis and may also gain observational experience regarding the speech pathology role with this patient population. They may also gain skills in literature searching and systematic review methodology.

Suitable for:	This project is open to applications from students currently enrolled in the UQ Bachelor of Speech Pathology (2 nd or 3 rd year 2016) or Master of Speech Pathology Studies programs (1 st year 2016).
Primary Supervisor:	Dr Anna Rumbach
Further info:	If you are interested in this project, or to receive further information, please contact Dr Anna Rumbach via email (a.rumbach@uq.edu.au).