**UQ Winter Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | **Bridging the Digital Divide: Co-designing web accessibility software for people living with aphasia** |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | Students will be engaged between 30 June and 25 July 2025 and will spend between 20-36 hours per week working on the project.  The project will be based at the Queensland Aphasia Research Centre (QARC) at the Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Services (STARS) in Herston. There is possibility for a hybrid arrangement depending on the nature of the activities to be completed. |
| **Description:** | Access to information, healthcare, and many essential services are becoming increasingly dependent on online services. Successful navigation of the web requires skills in reading, writing, and understanding. This poses challenges for people living with aphasia, a communication disability that can affect all domains of language.  The aim of this project is to work together with people with aphasia, family members or significant others, and health professionals working with people with aphasia to co-design (1) a web-browser extension to improve web accessibility, (2) training guides for customising the web-browser extension, and (3) guidelines for designing and creating communication-accessible websites.  The browser extension is currently being developed and evaluations will be conducted to assess the usability of the browser extension. |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | The successful applicants will have the opportunity to contribute to various aspects of the project, including:   * co-writing a review paper on current web accessibility software (an academic publication) * preparing an ethics application * qualitative and quantitative data analysis * creating aphasia-friendly training materials for using the browser extension |
| **Suitable for:** | This application is open to students with a background in speech pathology, allied health, psychology, or similar. This project would be most suitable for 3rd and 4th year students. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Jennifer Lee |
| **Further info:** | For more information about the project and involvement, please contact Jennifer [Jennifer.lee1@uq.edu.au](mailto:Jennifer.lee1@uq.edu.au) |