**UQ Summer Research Project Description - 2026**

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| **Project title:** | Reframing Autism Assessments: Helping families to understand and engage in the autism assessment journey |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | The successful candidate will be engaged in the project for approximately  36 hrs per week during the official program dates 12 Jan 2026 – 20 Feb 2026. The project can be delivered in a ***hybrid mode,*** (negotiable with applicant) |
| **Description:** | Families frequently report that autism assessment processes provide limited understanding of their child’s needs, insufficient explanation of purpose, and little practical guidance after assessment. Emerging evidence from the Therapeutic Assessment literature suggests that assessment itself can be a valuable intervention when conducted with transparency and collaboration. This research project is focused on evaluating whether a lived experience, evidence-informed assessment model improves parent confidence, understanding and engagement through the autism assessment journey compared with usual care. |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | Scholars will gain skills in literature review searching and writing, as well as skills in ethics applications (including developing participant information sheets and consent forms that are appropriate for families). Scholars will also have the opportunity for building networks and collaborations with a local private practice, and will gain knowledge about assessment practices in autism. |
| **Suitable for:** | Speech pathology students entering their 3rd or 4th year of the program are encouraged to apply. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Rebecca Armstrong |
| **Further info:** | Please contact Rebecca ([rebecca.armstrong@uq.edu.au](mailto:rebecca.armstrong@uq.edu.au)) if further information is required before applying. |