**2019 SHRS UQ Winter Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | **Dysphagia in Head and Neck Cancer: Determining Intervention Needs for Survivors and Their Families** |
| **Project duration:** | * 4 weeks
* 20 hours/week
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| **Position/s available** | 1 Position |
| **Description:** | Dysphagia is a common and serious side effect of chemoradiotherpy (CRT) for head and neck cancer (HNC). HNC survivors and their families who experience dysphagia following treatment are faced with long-term impairments that not only effect their physical swallowing function but also their social and emotional state. Whilst a number of interventions exist to treatment the physiological swallowing function, the psychosocial impacts of dysphagia are largely untreated by speech pathologists due to a lack of understanding of the psycho-social impact, lack of assessment choices and limited intervention options. The purpose of this project is to determine the intervention needs of people with dysphagia following HNC management and their carers. This work will lay the foundation for the development of a new intervention to target the psychosocial needs of this group.  |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | The student may gain skills in systematic database searching, qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, and will be provided with access to research networks and connections with other staff and postgraduate students. Depending on interest, scholars may have the opportunity to contribute to a publication. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to applications from UQ students from the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences who have completed at least 1 year of study.  |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Rebecca Nund |
| **Further info:** | Please contact Rebecca Nund at r.nund@uq.edu.au or 3365 4559 for further information about the project. Apply via [UQ Advantange](http://www.uq.edu.au/uqadvantage/wr-info-for-applicants) |