**2019-2020 SHRS UQ Summer Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | Assessment of cognitive performance and strategy use |
| **Project duration:** | * 6 weeks
* 28 hours (4 days)/week
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| **Position/s available** | 2 |
| **Description:** | There is a need for a standardised, performance-based assessment of cognitive function in complex daily tasks (Hanberg et al., 2018; Poulin, Korner-Bitensky, & Dawson, 2013). The Multiple Errands Test (MET; Shallice & Burgess, 1991) demonstrates some of the strongest evidence in assessment of cognitive function by Australian occupational therapists (Chan, Shum, Toulopoulou, & Chen, 2008; Koh, Hoffmann, Bennett, & McKenna, 2009; Sansonetti & Hoffman, 2013). Functional assessments in practice are often informal, subjective, and don’t extend to complex instrumental activities of daily living. Formal pen and paper assessments lack ecological validity and may fail to highlight high-level cognitive processes such as executive function. This program of research aims to develop behavioural test norms, explore validity of the MET and the impact of cognitive strategies on real-world performance. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | This project will allow for observation and collection of cognitive assessment data on older persons in community and hospital settings, as well as collation and analysis of existing data from a cognitive rehabilitation study in brain injury. This is an opportunity to work with a productive research team with expertise in adult and geriatric neurorehabilitation. Students will learn how to carry out a new version of the Multiple Errands Test and other cognitive assessments which will be useful in practice. Students will be supported to embark on analysis and write-up of data toward publication, which would be of great benefit in gaining research experience and building collaborations with researchers and clinicians in the field. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is most suitable for final year or graduate entry students undertaking a program of study in the area of occupational therapy or psychology. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Hannah GulloProf Jennifer Fleming |
| **Further info:** | Feel free to contact Hannah.gullo@uq.edu.au for information about the project and suitability. |