



2027 Summer Research Project

Section	Description
Project title	Pharmacist involvement in pandemic planning and response in Australia: A post-COVID health policy review
Hours & delivery	This project will take approximately 20-30 hours per week. Mode of delivery is online Working days/hours: Flexible, 20 hours across Monday – Thursday.
About the project (150–250 words)	The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the essential contribution of pharmacists to healthcare delivery, public health, and emergency response. An important component of pandemic and disaster preparedness is reviewing lessons learned and updating relevant response plans accordingly. In 2018, a health policy analysis conducted through the Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research examined Australian State, Territory, and National pandemic plans and found that pharmacists' roles and responsibilities were poorly represented. This project will revisit and update that analysis to determine whether pandemic planning policies have evolved following COVID-19, and whether pharmacists are now more effectively incorporated into pandemic preparedness and response plans across Australia. Understanding this can help identify opportunities to strengthen future preparedness and ensure health systems make effective use of all available healthcare professionals. Student researchers will make a substantial contribution by collecting and analysing pandemic planning documents, extracting relevant information, and comparing contemporary policies with findings from the earlier study. Their work will help generate updated evidence to inform future policy development and pandemic preparedness planning.
What you'll do (100-150 words)	The student will be expected to: - Review relevant literature related to pharmacists' involvement and roles in pandemics - Identify and collect relevant National and State/Territory government pandemic plans - Systematically review documents and extract relevant information - Compare results across jurisdictions and time periods - Summarise emerging themes - Contribute to written report, conference abstracts, and paper for publication
What you'll learn (100–150 words)	Students will gain practical experience in health services and policy research while working on a real-world project with direct relevance to healthcare planning. They will learn how to locate and critically review government policy documents, apply qualitative analysis methods, and extract and manage research data in a systematic and reproducible manner. The project will provide exposure to health policy frameworks, pandemic preparedness planning, and the role of professional workforces within healthcare systems. Students will develop skills in evidence synthesis, critical thinking, academic writing, literature searching, and communicating research findings to different audiences.



	Participants will also gain experience working as part of a research team, receiving mentorship throughout the project and contributing to outputs that may be suitable for conference presentation, publication, or policy engagement activities.
Project outcomes (75–125 words)	By the end of the project, students will have contributed to an updated analysis of pharmacist involvement in pandemic planning and response. Expected outputs include: - Database of relevant pandemic plans - Dataset of pharmacist involvement in pandemic plans - Brief manuscript for publication in a health policy journal - Abstract for presentation at conference such as the World Association of Disaster and Emergency Medicine, AdPha Medicines Management, or PSA2027 - Presentation of findings to relevant stakeholders such as professional pharmacy organisations, Departments of Health, and Directors of Pharmacy
Who should apply? (75–125 words)	This project would suit students studying pharmacy, public health, health policy, or related disciplines. Applications are welcome from students at any stage of their degree, although students who have completed coursework in research methods, public health, or health systems may find the project particularly rewarding. Strong candidates will be well organised, curious, and able to work independently under direction. Attention to detail, critical thinking, and confidence working with written documents will be helpful. Prior research experience is not required. Students with an interest in health policy, pandemic preparedness, healthcare workforce issues, or pharmacy practice are especially encouraged to apply.
Team & supervision (75–125 words)	This project will be supervised by Dr Nazanin Ghahreman-Falconer of UQ School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. She will work closely with Dr Elizabeth (Libby) McCourt who is the Research and Quality Improvement Pharmacist at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.
Additional opportunities (optional)	• Abstract submission: ○ World Association of Disaster and Emergency Medicine (Paris 2027) ○ Advanced Pharmacy Australia – Medicines Management (2027) ○ PSA2027 • Publication in Journal ○ Such as Health Policy and Planning • Presentation: ○ Queensland University Research Collaborative
Additional requirements (if applicable)	No specific additional requirements
Contact	Yes, students may contact the supervisor before applying. Direct enquiries to: Dr Nazanin Ghahreman-Falconer