# 2016 UQ Summer Research Project Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project title:</th>
<th>Early-life environmental exposures and adverse pregnancy outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Project duration:</td>
<td>6-10 weeks (minimum of 20 hours per week)</td>
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| Description: | **Background:** Exposure to nicotine by nicotine replacement therapy, smokeless tobacco and e-cigarettes is increasing worldwide. At present the risks posed to pregnant women and their babies by nicotine exposure are not fully understood. This project examines how nicotine exposure during pregnancy may combine with other factors, such as poor maternal diet, to increase the likelihood of pregnancy complications. We also explore strategies to prevent such complications from happening in the future.  
**Approach:** This is a preclinical study utilising a mouse model of nicotine exposure in pregnancy. |
| Expected outcomes and deliverables: | The successful applicant will learn how to:  
- carry out laboratory-based medical research  
- analyse and interpret research data  
- communicate their findings to both scientific and lay audiences |
| Suitable for: | This project is open to currently enrolled UQ students (undergraduate, honours or Masters by coursework) who have completed at least one year of study. Suitable applicants will have a background in biology or biomedical science, be self-motivated, have a keen interest in scientific research and strong communication and time-management skills. |
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