

UQ Summer Research Project Description - 2026

Project title:	Focus on Frailty: Digital frailty education for healthcare professionals and students.
Hours of engagement & delivery mode	The project will be offered for 0.6 FTE (21 hours) for 6 weeks (12 Jan- 20 Feb 2026) in hybrid mode (online at the Dutton Park Campus).
Description:	Background Frailty is a multidimensional risk state marked by a decline in physical and/or cognitive capacity, increasing a person's vulnerability to adverse health outcomes such as falls, prolonged hospital stays, and diminished quality of life. Despite its prevalence and impact, healthcare professionals often have inadequate training in frailty-focused care. Research shows that healthcare professionals want and need further training on frailty. Aim The project aims to enhance healthcare professionals' and students' understanding and awareness of frailty in hospitals through the development of an online frailty education course titled "Focus on Frailty". Methodology The course has been co-designed with consumers, caregivers, healthcare professionals, students, researchers, educators and peak bodies using surveys, interviews and focus groups. Participants informed the design of the content, delivery, interactive elements, look and feel and functionality of the course. The digital platform that hosts the course has been built and we are currently developing 12 modules (lessons) on frailty-related topics. In tandem with module building, we will be undertaking usability testing which will involve surveys and interviews with students and healthcare professionals to assess usability and user experience. Feedback will be gained iteratively to refine content, design and functionality.
Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:	Research activities may involve: - Creating education content and developing modules - Analysing usability testing data (descriptive surveys and interviews) - Contributing to the write-up of a manuscript Participants will gain an understanding of frailty and its relevance across disciplines. Depending on the activities the scholar is involved in, they will gain skills in digital content creation, academic writing, qualitative analysis and quantitative analysis using descriptive statistics.
Suitable for:	This project is open to students enrolled in a health-related degree, for example: public health, medicine, nursing, psychology, nutrition, exercise physiology, pharmacy or sociology. No prior experience is needed. All training will be provided.
Primary Supervisor:	Dr Sakshi Chopra
Further info:	If you are interested in this project, please contact Dr Chopra by email sakshi.chopra@uq.edu.au .