

UQ Winter 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 (29 June - 24 July 2026) in hybrid mode (online and at the Dutton Park Campus).
Description:	<p>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.</p> <p>Aim: The project aims to enhance the students understanding of pilot testing and usability testing for digital health platforms.</p> <p>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.</p>
Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:	<p>Research activities may involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating media for the education modules - Analysing pilot content and platform functionality testing data (descriptive qual and quant survey) - Contributing to the write-up of a manuscript <p>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.</p>
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
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