

2020 Winter Research Program

Project title:	Between home, school and clinic: How families of school-aged children with cancer negotiate uncertainty in everyday life
Project duration:	3-4 weeks
Description:	<p>The Winter Scholar will contribute to a project focusing on the experiences of children with cancer and their families. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- how uncertainty affects educational choices and pathways- what functions school attendance fulfils for children with cancer and their families- how the transitions between 'bedside schooling', home schooling and mainstream schooling are negotiated <p>The project aims to review the existing empirical evidence on educational participation and outcomes of children with cancer considering factors such as acute care spells, illness management and risk of recurrence. Also considered are how treatment side effects (e.g. neutropenia and the risk of infection) impact on inclusion in educational settings; and the mediating role of institutional, clinical and peer-to-peer support (including siblings; friends, etc.).</p>
Expected outcomes and deliverables:	<p>The scholar will have the opportunity to enhance their analytical, literature review, and writing skills. The skills and understandings gained will be useful for subsequent research degrees, including Honours and PhD. The scholar will work closely with the supervisor to do the following research activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Implement a protocol to conduct a literature search- Screen literature for inclusion in the literature review- Use Endnote to update and manage literature for inclusion in the review- Use NVivo to identify themes within the literature and systematically organise metadata on relevant publications- Synthesise the results of the review that will form the basis for a manuscript for publication <p>Substantial contributions to the review could result in co-authorship.</p>
Suitable for:	<p>This project is open to undergraduate (nearing the completion of their degree) and postgraduate applicants with an interest in the lived experience of health and illness. The candidate should have a background in one of the following areas: sociology, public health, health and rehabilitation sciences.</p>
Primary Supervisor:	<p>Dr Stefanie Plage (Professor Janeen Baxter will be an adjunct supervisor).</p>
Further info:	<p>Students can contact Dr Stefanie Plage at s.plage@uq.edu.au to discuss their application, but this is not essential.</p>