

2021 Summer Research Program

Project title:	Socio-emotional development and behavioural difficulties amongst Australian children of different language background
Project duration, hours of engagement & delivery mode	10 weeks, 28 hours per week, with a hybrid working arrangement, which will depend on the progress of the project - for example, literature search and review could be conducted remotely, while on-site attendance might be required for data access and analysis - as well as COVID-19 restrictions.
Description:	As a traditional country of immigration, Australia has a culturally and linguistically diverse population, with approximately 20% speaking a language other than English at home. The multilingual environment has been found to promote early cognitive development amongst bilingual children, who consistently show increased attentional control, working memory, metalinguistic awareness, as well as abstract and symbolic representation skills. Other aspects of early childhood development, however, have received limited attention in the literature. In this regard, this project examines socio-emotional development amongst Australian children of different language background with a focus on externalising and internalising behavioural difficulties. This project further explores the role of dominant language skills - English in the present case - in shaping the socio-emotional development of multilingual Australian children.
Expected outcomes and deliverables:	Students will have an opportunity to take part in literature search and review and quantitative data analysis, depending on the progress of the project. The enrolling unit might ask students to produce a short report or oral presentation at the end of their project.
Suitable for:	This project is open to students with interests in early childhood development and/or social demography, preferably those familiar with the subject matter and quantitative analysis.
Primary Supervisor:	Dr Peter Rankin and Dr Angelina Tang
Further info:	Although not mandatory, students are recommended to get in touch with the supervisors via email to Dr Peter Rankin prior to submitting an application.