

UQ Summer Research Project 2026- SBMS

Project title:	Curating a Display in the Integrated Pathology Learning Centre
Hours of engagement & delivery mode	25 hours per week Onsite Herston: UQ Health Sciences Building
Description:	<p>Curating a Display at the Integrated Pathology Learning Centre (IPLC) will involve developing a small, focused display featuring one or more specimens from the museum's extensive pathology collection. The aim of this project is to combine historical research with engaging science communication to tell the story of a particular disease. This will include tracing its pathology, its historical significance, and its ongoing relevance in contemporary society. The six-week Summer Research Program provides the ideal opportunity for this work, offering concentrated time to delve into both the medical and social dimensions of the chosen disease. The successful candidate will divide their time between selecting and studying specimens, conducting in-depth research, and developing interpretive content for public display. This will involve a literature review of current medical understanding, historical research using resources such as Trove and archival records, and the selection of a contemporary interpretive angle that connects the disease's history to present-day health contexts. Working closely with IPLC staff, the researcher will also gain experience in ethical display practices, exhibit text development, and the integration of visual and textual elements to create an accessible and thought-provoking visitor experience. The final outcome will be a ready-to-install display within the IPLC, supported by well-researched and engaging interpretive material, and a contribution to the museum's broader mission of fostering interdisciplinary learning and public engagement with health and disease.</p>
Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:	<p>This project has been designed with four key skill-building outcomes in mind for the successful student candidate. First, they will develop both scientific and historical research skills by gathering information from medical and historical texts. This is while also learning to navigate a range of archival databases and digital resources. Second, they will enhance their science communication skills by translating complex medical information into clear, accessible, and engaging narratives. Third, they will gain practical museum experience, including curatorial practice, ethical display considerations, and the integration of visual and textual interpretive elements. Finally, they will develop project management skills by seeing a display through every stage, from initial concept and content development to the logistics of final installation. At the conclusion of the project, the main deliverable will be a ready-to-install display, including carefully selected specimens, interpretive labels, and supporting visuals. This will be accompanied by a research file documenting all sources, findings, and interpretive decisions made during the project. Overall, the project offers students the chance to make a tangible and lasting contribution to the IPLC while developing interdisciplinary skills in research, interpretation, public engagement, and the practicalities of museum work.</p>

Suitable for:	This project is suitable for any student who is open to developing new skills and engaging with a human specimen collection.
Primary Supervisor:	Ms Rebecca Lush r.lush@uq.edu.au https://biomedical-sciences.uq.edu.au/facilities/integrated-pathology-learning-centre
Further info:	The supervisor CAN be contacted by students prior to submission of an application