



2027 Summer Research Project_Ms Lush

Section	Description
Project title	Researching Disease in the Integrated Pathology Learning Centre
Hours & delivery	Expected hours are ~25 hours per week. On campus at the Integrated Pathology Learning Centre, UQ Health Sciences Building (901), Herston.
About the project (150–250 words)	This project will involve researching into one or more specimens within the Integrated Pathology Learning Centre (IPLC). Through a combination of scientific investigation, historical research, and science communication, participants will explore the medical and historical narratives of the chosen specimen(s). Research will include examining the pathology of the disease or condition represented, its development and treatment over time, and the ways in which it has affected individuals and communities both historically and in the present day. The project will culminate in the creation of a small public display for the IPLC.
What you'll do (100–150 words)	At the start of the project, the key activity will be selecting a specimen or group of specimens with the same/similar disease. The IPLC has just over 5000 specimens on display representing a diversity of diseases. After selecting a specimen or disease, students will then begin their research, generating a short disease report (template will be provided). This research will consist of both medical and historical research. Students will need to summarise the disease and conduct some historical research into its history in Queensland and/or Australia. After completing this template, students will focus on an interesting aspect of the disease and create a small display for the IPLC. The display will consist of 1-2 specimens, specimen labels, an overall disease label, and a visual.
What you'll learn (100–150 words)	Throughout the project, participants will develop skills in specimen-based research, interpretation of historical and scientific sources, and public engagement. They will critically evaluate available information, identify key themes and narratives, and consider how pathology collections can be used to communicate important health messages.
Project outcomes (75–125 words)	A key aim of the project is to translate complex medical and scientific information into engaging and accessible content. The project will culminate in the creation of a small public display for the IPLC. This display will incorporate museum labels, visuals, and specimens to present the research in an informative and visually engaging manner. Once installed, it will be on display for all IPLC visitors. An additional output this will generate is a disease report that will be attached to the specimen or group of specimens in our museum database.
Who should apply? (75–125 words)	This project is open to any student who wishes to expand on their research skills and be introduced to museum curation. It will suit students who are interested in the history of disease and how our treatment and understanding of various diseases has been shaped by our social, cultural, and historical context.



Team & supervision
(75–125 words)

Rebecca Lush
Museum Curator

<https://biomedical-sciences.uq.edu.au/facilities/integrated-pathology-learning-centre>

Students will be working directly with the curator in order to complete this project. The research environment will be the IPLC, with opportunities to research offsite.

Additional opportunities
(optional)

Students will have the opportunity to share their experience on this project for inclusion in future IPLC presentations at conferences.

Additional requirements
(if applicable)

Yes, students may contact the supervisor before applying.

Contact

Direct enquiries to: r.lush@uq.edu.au