



2027 Summer Research Project_Dr Lang 1

Section	Description
Project title	Feasibility of oral examinations (viva voce) in clinical anatomy teaching for health professional students.
Hours & delivery	20-30 hours / week January to February 2027 Hybrid Location (St Lucia in person for data collection, Flexible during planning)
About the project (150–250 words)	Anatomy is the cornerstone of health professional practice. Clinical procedures, intervention and communication are rooted in anatomy knowledge. Anatomical competency is traditionally demonstrated through identification, recall, and explanation of structures and function. Practical and theory assessments are common tools used to evaluate learning outcomes. Practical assessments or 'spotters' traditionally focus on the identification of gross anatomical structures using pinned structures. More advanced anatomical courses that cover applied anatomy knowledge (e.g. musculoskeletal biomechanics or functional neuroanatomy) traditionally assess these skills through written theory assessments. In-practice health professionals frequently demonstrate applied anatomy orally. This is event through patient-clinician or interprofessional interactions. An oral-based assessment would therefore add an element of authenticity to student learning, whilst allowing students to reason and problem solve on the spot. Furthermore, the secure nature of an in-person oral assessment mitigates any risk of plagiarism. Previous works have demonstrated theoretical validity of oral examinations. [1] Despite this, the feasibility and the role oral examinations remain unknown and form the core research question of this project.
What you'll do (100-150 words)	You will learn to conduct a literature review on the current pedagogical landscape and the role of viva voce / oral assessments in health professional anatomical education. You will assist in the co-design of a pilot oral assessment including tasks such as developing a protocol, co-designing with various stakeholders (e.g. students, academics, and health professional), and delivering mock oral examinations. You will also apply basic quantitative statistics skills to analyse current student cohort data in preparation for the pilot. You will learn the scientific processes of conducting a research project including but not limited to:
What you'll learn (100–150 words)	• Performing a literature review and understanding higher education pedagogy. • Assist in protocol development and ethics submission • Data collection and analysis specific to clinical anatomy teaching.
Project outcomes (75–125 words)	You will have drafted a protocol for the oral examination after a comprehensive co-designed planning process in preparation for the pilot implementation in 2027. This project is best suited for students undertaking a health, education or biomedical program with a strong interest in anatomy and education.
Who should apply? (75–125 words)	Previous demonstrating or learning experience in the Gross Anatomy Facility is not required but highly desirable. Health students during 4th year placement year can apply, please contact supervisor for additional details.



Team & supervision (75–125 words)	Project is supervised by Dr Ray Lang, lecturer in allied health anatomy at the School of Biomedical Sciences. Students will be working with other anatomy teaching staff, learning designers, and other health students studying / have studied anatomy.
Additional opportunities (optional)	Describe any additional opportunities associated with the project, such as presentations, networking, or publications, pathways into ongoing research or further study. These experiences can help students understand the broader value of participation.
Additional requirements (if applicable)	Students will be required to complete the necessary onboarding and compliance processes. Students must follow all School safety procedures and maintain accurate records.
Contact	Students MUST contact the supervisor before applying due to the nature of study (human anatomy) Direct enquiries to: Ray Lang l.lang@uq.edu.au