

UQ Summer Research Project Description - 2026

Project title:	Female Para Athletes- setting women with disabilities up for success in high performance sport
Hours of engagement & delivery mode	For the Summer program, students will be engaged for 6 weeks only. The project will involve a variety of engagement methods including online and self paced work and face to face meetings at the Queensland Academy of Sport and UQ St Lucia campus. Times are flexible but will adhere to the program specifications of 20 – 36 hrs per week within the official program dates (Summer = 12 Jan – 20 Feb 2026).
Description:	Despite a huge increase of attention in the female athlete health and performance area, female para athletes are understudied and almost ignored in the literature. We are interested in understanding the key performance health barriers in female para athletes and will work with high performance bodies like the Queensland Academy of Sport to delve into this important area. The project will primarily use a review of literature, a survey to athletes and coaches and semi structured interviews to help understand the challenges and opportunities in women's health and para athletes.
Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:	Scholars will be involved in a literature review, assisting with an ethics application and setting up survey and interview protocols. Time permitting there will be observation of high performance para athletes in the training environment and an opportunity to learn from a wide range of performance support practitioners working with para athletes.
Suitable for:	The preference for this project is a student with some interest/background in sport or allied health. Will also consider applications from genuinely curious individuals who can demonstrate the link between their background and interests and the project aims.
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