



Gold Coast Health **LEAP** Program

Research Assistant Non-clinical (Mental Health)

Gold Coast University Hospital

An opportunity exists in the Mental Health Specialist Services Innovation, Evaluation and Research team. You'll be supervised by Dr Jules Finch, Team Leader | Clinical Psychologist.

About Gold Coast Health

Gold Coast Health is one of Queensland's largest healthcare services. We operate three hospitals and many community facilities, all focused on delivering high-quality, patient-centred care. Our team is passionate about making a positive impact on the lives of our patients and the community.

About the LEAP Program

The Learning Experience Academic Placement (LEAP) program offers non-clinical internships for students who want to:

- Gain real-world experience in healthcare (without needing a clinical background)
- Work on meaningful projects that make a difference
- Explore career pathways in a dynamic and growing industry

About the Team

The Innovation, Evaluation and Research (IER) Unit has been established to bring high level expertise, consultation and support to quality improvement (QI) activities, service evaluation and research projects within the Mental Health and Specialist Services (MHSS).

The unit works in close collaboration with MHSS workforce and external stakeholders. The team supports MHSS staff to undertake high-quality research, evaluation and QI activities through providing research governance, compliance, and development opportunities that build research capabilities across the organisation. The IER team embraces and supports high-quality research, evaluation and QI to drive the best possible care for the community.

About the Role/Project

The LEAP student role is designed to provide hands-on experience in research, evaluation, and governance processes. Students will contribute to meaningful projects while developing practical skills and knowledge to support their career development in health, research, or service improvement.

Key Responsibilities

Compliance and Monitoring

- Support administration of audit cycles for project tracking
- Assist with research governance processes
- Contribute to the development of education and training materials

Research and Evaluation

- Assist with qualitative and quantitative data collection, extraction, and coding
- Support collation and coordination of content for the research resources hub
- Identify and summarise new funding opportunities for inclusion in the IER grants calendar

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the placement, students will have gained:

- An understanding of research governance and compliance processes within healthcare settings
- Practical experience in data collection, analysis, and resource development
- Insight into quality improvement, evaluation, and research in mental health services
- Skills in project tracking, research administration, and stakeholder engagement

What we are looking for

We're looking for someone who is:

- Motivated and enthusiastic about learning new skills and engaging with data
- Able to work both independently and collaboratively as part of a team
- Interested in research evaluation, and quality improvement in healthcare

Area of Study

This opportunity would be best suited to students studying:

- Post-Grad or PhD in Health, Psychology, Mental Health or a related research/evaluation-focused discipline.
- Data or social sciences who are keen to apply their skills in a healthcare setting.
- Final year undergraduate students with research / data management skills

Requirements and Time Commitment

Placement: 1 day per week for 12 weeks (14 September to 04 December 2026)

Eligibility: Must be enrolled at a tertiary institution (university or TAFE)

Insurance: Indemnity insurance form from your university required before starting

**Please note the time commitment may be negotiated to align with semester dates for academic credit where possible.*

Accessibility

At Gold Coast Health, we value and celebrate the diversity of our employees and are dedicated to creating a workforce that reflects the diverse community we serve. Our Diversity and Inclusion team is always available to provide support and guidance to all employees and will promptly facilitate reasonable adjustments upon request.

How to Apply

Submit your application to your University Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Coordinator / Career Development Team or directly via the [Gold Coast Health Careers Page](#).

In your application include:

- Current resume
- Contact details of 2 referees
- Academic transcript
- Cover letter (no more than 1-2 pages) outlining what you hope to gain from the experience.

Applications close: Midnight on Sunday, 12th July 2026.

Please note: Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by a private phone number or via email.