

Studying Science in Practice: Exploring Collaboration, Credit and Research Work

Institution	The University of Queensland
Project details	This internship invites an undergraduate student to explore how science is practiced in real research settings. Rather than focusing on experiments or results, this project looks at the social and collaborative aspects of scientific work: how teams are organised, how credit is negotiated, and how everyday decisions shape research outcomes. The student will join an ongoing qualitative research project and contribute to concrete tasks such as assisting with interviews, transcribing and analysing material, and helping to build visual or written representations of how collaboration and recognition operate in scientific teams. The project will be carried out in the context of the QUBIC research community, a collaborative and interdisciplinary initiative focused on quantum biotechnology. This environment offers a unique opportunity to observe how science is practiced across disciplinary boundaries, and how research teams organise their work, assign credit, and navigate collaboration. This is a hands-on opportunity for students from any disciplinary background who are curious about how science works behind the scenes—not only as a technical process, but also as a social and institutional one. Expected Aims and Outcomes • Participate in 1–2 supervised interviews (as observer or co-interviewer). • Transcribe and thematically code interview. • Produce a visual summary (e.g. map or diagram) of contribution and recognition practices. • Draft a short analytical memo (2–3 pages) on preliminary findings. • Optional: conduct a short review of authorship or collaboration policies at selected institutions
Who can apply	• Undergraduate background in a science, engineering, or social science discipline • Interest in how science operates as a social and collaborative practice • Good communication and writing skills • Organised and detail-oriented • No prior experience in qualitative research required; training will be provided
Contact / Project supervisors	Dr Marita Rodriguez - uqmrod10@uq.edu.au (School of Law – The University of Queensland / QUBIC Responsive Science) With mentorship support from: Prof Allison Fish, Chief Investigator (School of Law – The University of Queensland / QUBIC Responsive Science)