

Work Based Learning (WBL) Placement Description

Host Details	
Host Organisation	Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute
Placement Title	Research technician/assistant
Number of Placements being offered	1
Placement Location: <input type="checkbox"/> Remote <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onsite <input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid	
Address (if onsite)	Level 5, ONJ Cancer Research and Wellness Centre, 145 Studley Rd, Heidelberg, 3084
Primary Supervisor Name	Kerryn Westcott
Position Title	Senior Scientific Project Officer
Host Organisation Website	https://www.onjcri.org.au/
Host Organisation Background: <p>Our priority is to outsmart cancer.</p> <p>Our vision is to help people live better with cancer and defeat it.</p> <p>Our mission is to discover and develop breakthrough cancer therapies to provide the best health outcomes for patients.</p> <p>We do this by discovering and developing new cancer therapies to provide real and life changing benefits for people impacted by cancer.</p> <p>With researchers based just metres from where people are receiving treatment, our scientific discoveries are rapidly translated into breakthrough clinical therapies.</p> <p>Our three core research programs focus on developing treatments for a range of cancers including breast, bowel and gastrointestinal tract, lung, skin, liver and brain cancer.</p> <p>Emerging knowledge from the laboratory is quickly translated into patient trials, with our investigators overseeing active clinical trials right across Australia.</p> <p>Observations from the clinic are then investigated by our research team, creating a continual cycle of learning and improvement between scientific research and patient care.</p>	

Placement Details	
Placement Semester/Term	Semester 2
Start Date	August 2025
End Date	October 2025
Days/hours per week	6 – 10 hours per week
Hours (total)	100 hours
Placement Type	Unpaid
<i>The host and successful student will have an opportunity to negotiate placement start and end dates, as well as days of the week that align to the Term or Semester dates that the student is enrolled in prior to commencing the placement.</i>	

Key Duties and Responsibilities

The Centre for Research Excellence at the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Centre has a program of collection of data, blood samples and tissues from brain cancer patients so that we can lead and collaborate in cutting edge brain cancer research. In this project the student will be entering patient data into an ethically approved database to further strengthen our data collection. They will be involved in processing of bloods for storage and in other laboratory tasks involved in the project.

Our goal is to provide the student with a range of experiences during their placement. Our research group is involved in pre-clinical laboratory work and clinical research. This may include some of the following:

- Data entry into REDcap database (training provided)
- Review and entry of toxicity data for a clinical trial
- Processing of samples (spinning blood etc)
- Laboratory tasks
- time with our brain cancer research team in our animal research facility to observe research techniques that are integral to our pre-clinical research program
- Opportunity to sit with doctors, nurses and/or the support teams during patient visits

Selection Criteria

Essential and desirable skills, abilities, qualifications, or experience to be successful in the placement

Desired Course Discipline/Background

Currently in the last year of their Bachelor Degree in biomedical sciences/biochemistry/cancer associated studies

Essential:

- Interest in clinical aspects of biomedical research
- Demonstrated ability to work as a team and independently
- Good written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to use Microsoft computer software programs including Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Minimum lab experience as gained in undergraduate studies

Desired:

- Knowledge of the work of ONJCRI (see website)
- Willingness to be involved in work involving mice

Pre-Placement Compliance Checks & Requirements

- ☒ Child Safe Standards Training (TSSD)
- ☒ Student Placement Deed
- ☐ Police Check
- ☒ Working With Children Check (WWCC)
- ☐ Other

Work Based Learning (WBL) – Subject Information and Requirements

Subject Code	LTU3IND
Subject Information	LTU3IND Handbook
Subject Prerequisites	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed 120 credit points of your degree• Have 1 free elective space in your course plan

How to Apply

Application Cut Off Date: Monday the 14th of April 2025

When you are ready to apply for this placement opportunity, visit the [How to Apply](#) page and refer to Step 1 and Step 2c.

Once you have submitted an application, you will receive a confirmation email. If you are successful in moving to the next stage, you will be notified via email. Please ensure you check your La Trobe email daily for updates regarding the

selection process

Please note: this placement requires a CV/Resume for all applicants for their review. A live interview (online or in person) will be required prior to offering a placement. The supervisor may require a subsequent face-to-face meeting before offering placement.

Thank you for considering a Work Based Learning Placement!