

Ward Summer Research Student (SOAR position) – Summer 2026

Program: Sparking student Opportunities for Advancing inclusive childhood disability Research program

Principal Investigator: Dr. Amy McPherson

LAB: ProFILE

Graduate Department Affiliation: Dalla Lana School of Public Health & Rehabilitation Sciences Institute

Project Title

How do youth with disabilities use online spaces to create social connections and reduce isolation

Project Overview

This research explores how youth with disabilities engage with online spaces—such as social media, forums, gaming communities, and support groups—to build meaningful social connections and reduce isolation. Findings will inform resources and guidance for youth, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and digital developers to promote inclusive, safe, and supportive online environments.

Position Details

- **Role:** Research Assistant
- **Start Date:** May 4, 2026
- **End Date:** July 24, 2026
- **Type:** Hourly
- **Wage:** \$17.60/hour
- **Position Type:** Hybrid
- **Number of Positions:** 1

Responsibilities

- Recruitment of participants
- Scheduling and conducting online interviews
- Assisting with qualitative data analysis

Qualifications

- Entering **Year 3 or above** in a relevant program
- Completed at least **one qualitative methods course**
- Comfortable engaging with youth with disabilities

Application Requirements

- Cover letter (max 1 page)
- CV
- Transcript
- One letter of recommendation