



## ACU Undergraduate Research Internships

The ACU Undergraduate Research Internship scheme is targeted toward motivated undergraduate students with a distinction average or above. The scheme will provide successful applicants with the opportunity to experience a real research project, and receive supervision from an ACU researcher. The project funds a student stipend of up to \$2000, and students may schedule their time on the project between now and the end of the year totalling a maximum of 150 hours. In 2016, the ACU Institute for Health & Ageing (IHA) is pleased to offer two projects to undergraduate interns as follows:

- **Relationships between the neighbourhood built environment and body mass index**
- and
- **Socioeconomic inequalities in objectively measured physical function in mid- and older-aged adults**

Each study will use data from the **How Areas in Brisbane Influence health And acTivity (HABITAT)** project. HABITAT is a multilevel longitudinal (2007-2018) study of mid-aged adults (40 - 65 years in 2007) living in Brisbane, Australia. Its primary aim is to examine patterns of change in physical activity, sedentary behaviour and health over the period 2007 - 2018 and to assess the relative contributions of environmental, social, psychological and socio-demographic factors to these changes.

A clinical sub-study was conducted in 2014; which contained a sub-sample of respondents in the 2011 HABITAT sample who consented to be involved in future data collections. The purpose of the HABITAT clinical sub-study is to better understand the trajectory of decline in physical function and the factors that influence this trajectory.

Each study will aim to submit a manuscript to a peer-reviewed academic journal. The main role of the student will be to conduct a search of the literature, assist with the analysis and writing of results, and help prepare the manuscript for submission. It is anticipated that the student's contribution will result in co-authorship of the manuscript. Prior experience or exposure to epidemiological/analytic methods is desirable but not essential. The internship is designed to give the undergraduate student a taste of working in a research environment, and the skills involved in putting together an academic manuscript. Co-authoring a manuscript is also expected to make the student more competitive for post-graduate scholarship applications.

For more information on projects and how to apply, please contact:

**Dr Jerome Rachele**  
03 9230 8263  
Jerome.Rachele@acu.edu.au



**Professor Gavin Turrell**  
03 9230 8251  
Gavin.Turrell@acu.edu.au

