

UQ Summer Research Project Description - 2026

Project title:	Across Boomtowns Spread Tracker
Hours of engagement & delivery mode	Six weeks, working 20–30 hours per week. The project will be offered on-site, with facilities to work in the Centre.
Description:	Track how far apart Queensland’s boomtowns are, year by year. This project builds a simple gap monitor across housing, income, crime, population and employment by calculating dispersion measures (range, interquartile range, standard deviation and coefficient of variation) for each indicator and year. Students will produce clear line charts of “spread over time,” highlighting years when gaps widened or narrowed against key stages of gas development in those towns, and compile a short but comprehensive briefing that names the indicators and towns driving changes with gas development phases. Student skills required: Basic quantitative social data analysis (Excel or SPSS).
Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:	Students will gain skills in quantitative data analysis, applying dispersion measures to social indicators across Queensland towns where gas development is dominant. They will produce line charts showing changes over time, write a short briefing explaining the findings, and present results to supervisors and peers.
Suitable for:	Students (final year undergrad or postgrad) in social sciences, economics, or related fields. Applicants should have basic quantitative skills (Excel or SPSS) and an interest in regional development and the impacts of resource industries.
Primary Supervisor:	Associate Professor Kathy Witt
Further info:	If you would like to learn more about the project, please contact Dr Debashish Dev at d.dev@uq.edu.au .