

## University of Manchester Q-Step Summer Project 2019

### Ref #28: UoMQStep 2019 DfE – How Do Key Stages Matter for Child Outcomes?

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**Organisation Name:** Department for Education

**Team/Department:** Early Years and Deprivation Analysis and Research Unit

**Address:** Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester, M1 2WD

**Provisional title for project:** Understanding trajectories in educational outcomes over time among children in England: from the early years to secondary school

The Early Years and Deprivation Analysis and Research Unit (EYDARU) publish a range of research reports and official statistics on childcare and education usage, quality and outcomes for children aged 0-5. EYDARU also conduct secondary analysis of these sources to build a broad and robust evidence base. This project will involve merging multiple data sets to investigate the trajectory of outcomes for children in the early years through the Key Stages of compulsory education. The project will also explore how outcomes vary for disadvantaged children. The analysis could be completed using R or SQL, plus Excel. This project will look to update published analysis with more timely data, with scope to broaden the remit or have an increased focus on an area of interest or depending on identified gaps in the evidence base.

#### Key words (up to 12):

Childcare, Education, Longitudinal Analysis

#### Essential and desirable skills that the student would need to have:

**Essential:** Excel; written and verbal communication skills; teamwork.

**Desirable:** At least one of R, SPSS or SQL; experience of literature reviews.

**Where the work would be carried out:** Choice of location – Bristol, Darlington, London, Manchester, Sheffield.

**Preferred selection method (interview or other method):** Interview

**Interview preference (on campus, remote, in your office):** Campus

**Support and training offered by the organisation:** EYDARU is a multi-disciplinary team that can offer professional support from a range of perspectives (economists, statisticians and researchers). DfE offers a range of internal training, including in R, Excel, communication skills and Government-specific learning, to which the successful candidate will have access.

**Any issues of data confidentiality and/or IPR that would need to be resolved:**

The successful candidate will need to return required documents promptly in order to pass Civil Service security clearance in advance of their start date, so that they can access the relevant administrative data.

**Supporting information:**

The nature of the project might be similar to this published [report](#), but using more recent data. The successful candidate will have access to the Department's administrative data, including: Early Years Foundation Stage Profile results, Early Years Census, Schools Census, Pupil Data Repository. Using these sources, it will be possible to track the trajectory of individual children's results through the education system and understand the predictors of successful outcomes.

**Financial assistance offered by the organisation:** Expenses will be paid for any travel, subsistence and training during the placement in line with DfE policies.