



# Q-STEP SUMMER INTERNSHIPS 2020

## Ref #15: UoMQStep 2020 The Times and Sunday Times - Data Journalism

### Organisation Profile

The Times and Sunday Times

Digital Team

1 London Bridge Street, SE1 9GF

### Selection Method

A written CV and cover letter followed by an interview with the The Times and Sunday Times team via Skype

### Supporting Information

As a digital team we have a great track record of taking undergraduate students for work experience placements and ensuring they learn about how a major news organisations functions. We always try to ensure they work on interesting and engaging projects and finish their placement with a better understanding of journalism and digital storytelling.

The opportunity to take a Q-Step intern with statistical skill for 2 months is a tremendous opportunity to extend this experience and really embed a student within the team.

This would be the 2nd Q-Step we have taken as an organisation and we are excited by the potential impact after the success of the first (our student took part in a major investigation into the water quality in Britain's rivers which was featured on the front page)

### Training Offered:

- An introduction to journalism at one of the world's leading news organisations.
- An understanding of how to build a newsroom project.
- Training in how to write and construct an article to the highest standards.
- Training in how to write and construct an article to the highest standards.
- Exposure to our journalistic processes: how to take large quantities of data and make it understandable and interesting to a wider audience.
- The development of their programming skills through the application of them to world world events and stories.

### Application Criteria

#### *Essential:*

- Ability to conduct statistical analysis, ideally using programming languages.
- Enjoy collaborating with others and working in groups.

#### *Desirable*

- An interest in journalism and digital storytelling.
- The ability to clearly and articulately express ideas.
- Have good communication skills.
- Work well under pressure and to deadlines.



# Q-STEP SUMMER INTERNSHIPS 2020

## Ref #15: UoMQStep 2020 The Times and Sunday Times - Data Journalism

### Project One: Clean Air For All

The Times Clean Air for All Campaign shined a light on Britain's air pollution crisis, exposing the consequences of poor air quality and putting relenting pressure on the government to improve the air we breathe and refresh Britain's out-dated Clean Air Act.

We are continuing the campaign by exploring how Britain can use both technology and policy to tackle air pollution and plan to stress test solutions recommended by air quality scientists. This will involve looking at the data behind pilot schemes and projections and applying the findings to the rest of the country. The project will pose a statistical challenge and will require the accurate and responsible reporting of modelling data. We hope it will be a constructive piece with plenty of opportunity to find strong new lines.

### Key Words

Air Pollution      Clean Air Act      Data  
Constructive Journalism      Investigations  
Data Visualisation      Maps      Charts  
Government Legislation      Modelling

*Given the nature of the host organisation and the news cycle, the successful applicant may be required to work on a range of projects as well as those outlined.*

### Project Two: Understanding Britain's Private Schools

We are looking into the financial reserves of private schools and whether they are hoarding wealth and assets despite paying no tax. Private schools are mostly charitable entities that do not pay tax because they are deemed to serve a matter of public benefit by providing education.

But given the high fees charged and limited financial support provided to poorer students - and a tendency to better the already well off - this charitable status is controversial. If it were found that many of these schools were hoarding assets rather than using their funds to cut fees for worse off students, this would be particularly interesting.

Many Times readers who are moderate earners and would like the chance to send their kids to private school would find it shocking that this hoarding could prevent them from offering their children a better education. This idea came off the back of a similar debate around the use by military charities of their reserves.

We would be looking to analyse the public data on private school reserves and to collate information from charity accounts to analyse this hypothesis.

### Key Words

Private Schools      Land Ownership      Tax  
Financial Reserves      Charitable Status  
Funding      Land Registry      Students