University of Manchester Q-Step Summer Project 2018:

Ref: #27 UoMQStep 2018 Directorate of Planning Offer Making at UoM

For enquiries contact Prof Jackie Carter, jackie.carter@manchester.ac.uk or Dr Mark Brown, mark.brown@manchester.ac.uk, Q-Step Co-directors.

Organisation name: The University of Manchester

Team/Department: Directorate of Planning

Address: Christie Building, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

Project title: Fair Access to Higher Education: Offer making at the University of Manchester

Abstract:

This placement offers an opportunity to work at a leading research intensive University, conducting data analysis that will help to inform policy and shape recruitment strategy. The University of Manchester is committed to widening participation and works to ensure that students from all backgrounds have equal access to higher education. Recent data published by UCAS has highlighted that there are gaps in offer making at the University of Manchester between different groups of students. This research will explore this data in more detail to identify whether these findings hold across subjects and different entry qualifications. The student will gain experience of working with large scale datasets and applying a range of statistical techniques. The placement is suited to anyone looking to develop their Excel skills, statistical knowledge and report writing skills, with an interest in social mobility and widening participation.

Data sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student records, 1st December student snapshot data, UCAS admissions data, POLAR and ACORN postcode datasets.

Key words: Higher Education, admissions trends, offer making, Widening Participation, statistical modelling, policy development.

Essential and desirable skills:

Essential skills: Computer literacy with knowledge of Access, Excel, Word and MS Outlook; experience of working with large datasets; excellent numeracy skills; ability to use initiative; excellent attention to detail and high degree of accuracy; organisational/time management skills; good communication skills.

Desirable skills: An interest in quantitative analysis and data management; experience of statistical software packages (e.g. SPSS or R); an understanding of current issues across the Higher Education sector.

Where the work will be carried out: The student will be based in the Directorate of Planning at the University of Manchester for 8 weeks during July and August. Working hours are 9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Preferred selection method: Interview at the University of Manchester.

Support and training offered by the organisation:

The student will receive a high level of supervisor assistance from the Lead Data Analyst within the Directorate of Planning, and will work within a supportive team. We will provide an environment in which a student can learn a range of quantitative research and professional skills in a higher education setting, and develop skills in Microsoft Excel and Access.

Supporting information:

The student will have the opportunity to disseminate findings through the relevant meetings and working groups and to senior staff members.

Financial assistance offered by the organisation:

The University will cover any additional expenses incurred throughout the placement.