University of Manchester Q-Step Summer Project 2019

Ref: #21 UoMQStep 2019 DfID Syria – Humanitarian Coding

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Organisation Name: Department for International Development

Team/Department: Middle East and North Africa Department - Syria Team

Address: Abercrombie House, Eaglesham Road, East Kilbride, Glasgow, G75 8EA / 22 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2EG

Provisional title for project: Upgrading DFID Syria's Humanitarian Coding

The Syria Team collect humanitarian data on a quarterly basis, using the R statistical software package to process, clean and compile it to produce our factsheet on the UK's humanitarian aid response to the Syria crisis. Each quarter we process over 10,000 rows of data which are disaggregated by age, sex, disability and geography. This project involves upgrading the R code we use for data processing (including modularising it, fixing bugs and adding new functionality) and improving its flexibility in anticipation of future need.

Key words (up to 12): Humanitarian Data, R, Code, Syria, Middle East, Government.

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

Essential:
- Experience of coding using the R statistical programming language;
- Ability to work autonomously;
- Strong analytical skills;
- The intern must be reliable and responsible as they will be dealing with sensitive data.

Desirable:
- Experience working with large datasets;
- Interest in the international development and humanitarian sector;
- Ability to be innovative and "think outside the box".

Where the work would be carried out: The project will be undertaken in a DFID office; ideally in our East Kilbride office (situated an easy train journey away from Glasgow), or in our London office if this is not possible.

Preferred selection method (interview or other method): Interview

Interview preference (on campus, remote, in your office): Ideally remote, but on campus may be possible.

Support and training offered by the organisation: The intern will be supervised by Emma Haigh, Senior Results Adviser in the Syria Team. She will be on-hand to support the intern on a day-to-day basis, offering assistance with R issues and giving an in-depth introduction to the results database.

Any issues of data confidentiality and/or IPR that would need to be resolved:
The intern will need to get the appropriate governmental security clearance and pass a criminality check in order to work in the DFID offices and work with sensitive data. The costs of this will be covered by DFID.

Supporting information:

- Department for International Development website:
  https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development
- Syria Crisis Factsheet:
  https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781276/UK_Syria_Crisis_Response_Summary__2019.02.22_.pdf

Financial assistance offered by the organisation: None.