

# Q-STEP SUMMER INTERNSHIPS 2021

## The Ditchley Foundation - Using Quantitative Analysis To Bridge Divides With The Ditchley Foundation

### Organisation and Team

The Ditchley Foundation

Ditchley Park, Enstone, Chipping Norton,  
Oxfordshire, OX7 4ER, United Kingdom

### Selection Method

Written CV & cover letter followed by an  
interview

### Project Outline

The renewal of democratic societies, states, markets and alliances is an urgent priority and action to protect our planet is needed from us all. The Ditchley Foundation aims to build new common ground so that we can move toward solutions to complex problems. We believe that change is driven, and managed, by personal relationships, not reports or declarations. We engage local and global communities over time rather than chase headlines. We are not tied to the agenda of any government, political party or commercial interest.

Over the course of its history and in recent years, Ditchley has developed an extensive network of contacts. From the past three years alone this includes 4,500 people from 60 different countries. For Ditchley to be successful, it needs a deep understanding of the networks around a given theme, both from within its own network and the world outside. This project revolves around the understanding of people and their networks across areas such as education, climate and politics.

The student(s) will be expected to perform open-source research on a list of individuals, learning about their attributes and background, as well as the communities of which they are a part. In some cases they may be asked to determine the list of individuals themselves, given a particular thematic direction. All of this information will be managed using a network-analysis tool that will allow them to visualise and reflect on the person's network, so that they can understand how they fit into the overall network of all individuals. Detailed statistics will be produced showcasing the strengths and weakness of this network. The student will be given a detailed set of guidelines setting out what we are looking for and we will provide constant supervision as they and their team-mates undertake this research.

### Application Criteria

#### Essential:

We are looking for applicants with a curious mind who are eager to immerse themselves in the ethos of the Foundation. For this project applicants must have competent quantitative skills, but these could be demonstrated in various ways, for example in coding ability (e.g. Python or R), experience with statistical software (e.g. SPSS), or simply having advanced analytic skills with spreadsheets.

Note that we do not expect all of the above - these just give a flavour of the type of skills that we are looking for.

#### Keywords

Data collection/mining; Network research;  
Charity/non-profit

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### Practical Considerations

Remote working.

In the unlikely event that covid restrictions allow us to convene on-site for a one-off welcome/farewell session, travel expenses would be covered.

We anticipate that these internships will take place from 12th July to late-August/early-Sept.

### Issues of Data Confidentiality / IPR

We ask all interns to sign an agreement concerning data and responsibilities when they start.

### Supporting Information

Outputs from this will include:

- A rich database providing information of influential people on a particular theme.
- A report containing a statistical analysis of this network.

### Support and Training

The foundation will provide full supervisory support for the student(s). The student will become a part of a small team of researchers and, after an initial week of training, will participate in regular calls throughout the week to discuss progress and insights from their work. A secondary supervisor will be allocated to provide pastoral care, if needed.