

Q-STEP SUMMER INTERNSHIPS 2021

Medical Research Council (MRC) - Evaluation of the Early Careers Programme

Organisation and Team

Medical Research Council (MRC): Evaluation and Analysis Team

58 Victoria Embankment, London, EC4Y 0DS

Selection Method

Written CV & cover letter followed by an interview

Application Criteria

Essential:

- A basic understanding of how UK funding bodies work.
- A willingness to learn programming (e.g. Python) if not already known.
- Excellent organisational skills.

Desirable:

- An interest in research policy would be desirable, but not essential.

Keywords

Research policy, publicly funded research, evaluation

Project Outline

The renewal of democratic societies, states, markets The Medical Research Council, UK's leading funding body of medical research, is currently conducting an evaluation of its Early Careers Programme.

The aim of the evaluation is to understand the benefit the programme brings to successful applicants in terms of their career progression and academic achievement as well as the barriers and facilitators in achieving these achievements. Part of the evaluation will require a comparison of the successful applicants with those applicants who were shortlisted but were not successful in receiving a grant, to analyse differences in career pathways and academic progression between the two groups.

Under the supervision of Dr Charitini Stavropoulou, who is currently on secondment with the MRC to lead this project, the intern will provide support to the MRC's data analytics team on web searches and data management. Example include web searches looking for publicly available information on the unsuccessful applicants (e.g. current affiliation, position, whether still in academia or not etc). Work may also include assisting semi-quantitative analysis of interviews. It is an exciting opportunity to get explore the use of data analytics in research policy, working with one of the world's largest funder of medical research.

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Practical Considerations

Depending on situation with the pandemic over the next few months, we could organise a few visits to London for the intern to meet the team, attend some meetings and receive training. Working hours would be 9-5pm Monday to Friday, although there is some flexibility with start/end times (e.g. 8am-4pm or 10am-6pm would also be acceptable).

The placement would last 8 weeks, depending on the candidate's availability.

The MRC can meet travel and subsistence expenses for any travel is required and authorised.

Issues of Data Confidentiality / IPR

The successful candidate will be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement concerning information that they will have access to as part of the project.

Supporting Information

The analysis may be incorporated into a paper for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, in which case the candidate may have the opportunity to be named as an author

Support and Training

The successful candidate will be supervised by Dr Charitini Stavropoulou, who will support the candidate to organise the plan of the work to be carried out, identify the type of information needed to be gathered and discuss ways in which this can be done. Guidance will be given as to appropriate online training in Python or other programming languages that may be useful.