

Q-STEP SUMMER INTERNSHIPS 2021

ONS – UK SDGs data

Organisation and Team

Office for National Statistics: Sustainable Development Goals

ONS, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport

Selection Method

Written CV & cover letter followed by an Interview

Application Criteria

Essential:

- Good MS Excel skills
- Strong communication skills
- An understanding of indicators
- An ability to pick up concepts quickly and think strategically

Desirable:

- An understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals and/or the key social issues faced by the UK
- Familiarity with a statistical software package
- Familiarity with a range of Government and non-Government data sources

Key Words

SDGs, data, analysis, environment, poverty, inclusion, gender, disability, indicators

Project Outline

In 2015, the world signed up to take action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030 – through the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ONS is responsible for sourcing and reporting UK data for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UK data not only feeds into the global progress towards the Goals, but through the disaggregation of the data identifies the groups in UK society that are being left behind. We work across government to ensure that the data reported for the UK meets the UN requirements and is the most appropriate to tell the UK story.

This is an exciting opportunity to work on a high-profile global project led by the United Nations. The project offers opportunities to work with colleagues both across Whitehall and internationally. Our work attracts Parliamentary interest across a wide and diverse range of topics, and you will be involved in the sourcing and analysing of data that will enable the UK to understand our progress to the Goals. There will be scope to undertake small analytical pieces as the need arises that will complement the overall work plan of the SDGs data team.

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Practical Considerations

Under present Covid-19 guidelines, the intern is likely to be home-based. Should a return to office-working be in place the intern may be required to work in any of the ONS offices in Newport, Titchfield or London

8 week internship

Support and Training

The intern would work within a team of ONS analysts and would be managed by an analyst. On the job training will be offered and opportunities to increase skills and capability as available.

Supporting Information

The UK data team sources and reports UK data for each of the 244 indicators that underpin the 17 SDGs. The UK is one of the world leaders in respect of the amount of SDG data already sourced – with at least headline data reported for 81% of all indicators. The challenge is to identify sources and innovative solutions for the remaining 19% of indicators, and to enable all indicators to be disaggregated to understand which groups in the UK are being left behind. For a number of indicators UK official statistics do not exist or may not conform to the UN requirements. The exploration of new sources and innovative solutions to these problems involves collaborative relationships both within and outside of ONS and potentially internationally.

Issues of Data Confidentiality / IPR

No. Security vetting (BPSS) will be conducted before the placement starts.