

Q-STEP SUMMER INTERNSHIPS 2021

The Times – Exploring Britain’s potential for green housing

Organisation and Team

The Times and The Sunday Times: Data and Digital Storytelling Team

1 London Bridge Street, SE1 9GF

Selection Method

Written CV & cover letter followed by an Interview

Project Outline

The Times and The Sunday Times will increase its coverage of the climate crisis in 2021, producing a series of digital projects on the subject ahead of the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November (COP26).

The aim is to blend honest, data-driven reporting on the challenges Britain faces in the years ahead with constructive journalism exploring how we might benefit from a green revolution.

Planning is underway and a variety of digital projects are slated for the second half of the year, including:

Project two: Exploring Britain’s potential for green housing

We aim to investigate how much it would cost to convert every home in Britain into an environmentally-friendly property. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government maintain a dataset of 20 million energy performance certificates for domestic properties in England and Wales which features recommendations for work to be completed so that a home can reach its maximum green potential. Our intern will help us process and interrogate this comprehensive resource, search for news lines, and explore how we present our findings digitally.

Application Criteria

Essential:

- Ability to conduct statistical analysis using spreadsheets
- Enjoy collaborating with others and working in groups
- An interest in journalism and digital storytelling

Desirable:

- Knowledge of working with data using programming languages (ideally R)
- The ability to clearly and articulately express ideas
- Works well under pressure and to deadlines

Key Words

Open data, Energy, Investigations, Government, Housing, Big Data,

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Practical Considerations

Remote working

8 week internship

Given the nature of the news cycle, the successful applicant may be required to work on a range of projects as well as those outlined. Pitches are always welcome and we look forward to hearing your ideas too

Supporting Information

As a digital team we have a great track record of taking undergraduate students for placements and ensuring they learn how a major news organisation works.

We aim to ensure they work on interesting and engaging projects and finish their placement with a better understanding of journalism and digital storytelling. The chance to welcome a Q-Step intern with statistical skills to the team for two months is an opportunity to extend this experience and really embed a student in the newsroom.

This would be the second Q-Step intern we have taken on and we are excited by the potential impact after the success of the first — our 2019 student took part in a [major investigation into the water quality in Britain's rivers](#) which was featured on the front page and also had the sole byline on [a piece to go with it](#).

Support and Training

- An introduction to journalism at one of the world's leading news organisations
- An understanding of how to craft a newsroom project
- Training in writing and article construction to the highest standards
- Exposure to our journalistic processes: how to take large quantities of data and make it understandable and interesting to a wider audience
- The development of their programming skills through the application of them to real world events and stories