

Q-STEP SUMMER INTERNSHIPS 2021

House of Commons Library - Local elections 2021: data collection and analysis

Organisation and Team

House of Commons Library: Social and General
Statistics Section

House of Commons, Palace of Westminster, London
SW1A 0AA

Selection Method

Written CV & cover letter followed by an
Interview

Project Outline

This is an exciting opportunity to join the House of Commons Library in collecting and analysing the results of all local elections taking place in 2021. Local election results are not collected centrally, and the House of Commons Library is now working with academics Michael Thrasher and Colin Rallings to become the source of local election results.

The student will:

- Be one of the team gathering voting, turnout and electorate data from local councils;
- Assist in analysing the data, for example showing voting patterns across councils and where possible across time;
- Be encouraged to suggest new ways to analyse the data.

Application Criteria

Essential:

- Familiarity with Excel
- Accuracy and attention to detail (especially on data entry)
- Data analysis skills
- Ability to communicate findings clearly in writing and through charts/tables

Desirable:

- Interest in local elections

Key Words

Local elections, data gathering, data analysis,
political parties

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Practical Considerations

The work will be carried out in our office in Westminster. If this is not possible due to ongoing social distancing restrictions, the work will be carried out remotely.

8 week internship

Support and Training

This is an opportunity to gain experience of what it is like to work in the House of Commons. During the placement the student will be assigned to an experienced researcher as their line manager. The line manager will have regular meetings with the student and will be responsible for setting and reviewing work objectives, and ensuring the student maximises development opportunities available through the placement. Detailed guidance on how to carry out the project will be provided. For the duration of the placement the student will be treated as a full member of the Social and General Statistics Section in the House of Commons Library. Relevant job specific training will be offered where necessary.

Issues of Data Confidentiality / IPR

The intern would have to satisfy Parliament's security clearance checks. This would not be possible for someone who has spent more than two of the last five years living outside the UK.