



(Northern Powerhouse Partnership Logo)

Overview of the Data Fellowship

My time at the Northern Powerhouse Partnership has been one of the most transformative experiences in my career to date. Working in a think tank has always been an ambition of mine at some-point in my career, but this programme provided me the opportunity at a much earlier date than I expected! My fellowship was essentially divided into two separate aspects. Within the role of a data fellow, I was providing qualitative and quantitative research for the economics team to support the creation of a report into the impact of transport investment on productivity levels, with the goal of recommending to the national government the benefits of greater levels of investment in the North of England.

The second aspect of my fellowship involved a more-so communications and policy-based role. I created a comprehensive stakeholder mapping system for the company from scratch. This allowed them to identify politicians from across the political spectrum whose engagement was incredibly beneficial to the advancement of the policies created by the think tank. In addition to this task, I worked under the Chief Executive and the Communications Manager to assist with their work in a wide range of capacities, allowing me to witness the fundamental skills required to execute these roles.

Data Analysis

My data analysis journey is unique compared to my data fellow colleagues, as my proficiency with data analysis software and models was relatively rudimentary at the beginning of my placement. However, the Northern Powerhouse Partnership decided to take me on regardless of this lack of experience and instead trained me in-house. While I was able to create comprehensive case studies, as I had experience with qualitative research, my quantitative research required building from the ground up.

After being demonstrated how the software worked by my supervisor and my fellowship colleague, alongside some additional research in my personal time, I can confidently say that my skillset has expanded to include basic significance calculations within the programming language R, alongside some more complex multiple regression testing.

Following from this exciting learning experience, I have decided to take an additional module this year which includes quantitative analysis regarding elections within the UK.

Impact of The Research


- The research conducted has formed the basis for the of the 5-Point plan, included below, created in the lead-up to the next general election.
- The accumulation of the work conducted over my data fellowship will be concluded in a report investigating the impact that transport investment has on increasing productivity.
- The creation of the stakeholder mapping system became incredibly useful to the organisation when planning their party conference agenda.

Key Skills Learnt

- I expanded my skillset regarding my qualitative research. As the quality of the case studies I was producing, increased dramatically over my tenure with the NPP.
- The quantitative aspect of my skillset also saw improvement, as I discussed previously, from having essentially no experience to becoming proficient.
- By attending several networking events over summer, I have begun to learn how to network successfully, which is a skill I had no experience exercising before my fellowship.
- My teamwork and communication skills have continued to improve. An especially useful experience was the hybrid nature of the weekly work schedule, as I had to adapt how I interacted with the team frequently.

Concluding Remarks

In summarisation of my time at the Northern Powerhouse Partnership, it has been an incredibly transformative experience. From the expansion of all aspects of my data analysis skills, to the ability to engage with stakeholders, in addition to all the key skills listed above – I cannot thank the Northern Powerhouse Partnership enough for the incredible opportunity they provided to me. Furthermore, the connections that I gained through my fellowship have resulted in me securing an additional 2 weeks of work experience with a public affairs company in London after the new year.

 <p>A 5-point plan to transform the Northern economy</p>	<p>1. Transform transport connectivity</p> <p>Build Northern Powerhouse Rail and HS2, while improving intra-city transport links, to give private investment the certainty it needs to deliver homes and jobs.</p>	<p>2. Drive Innovation</p> <p>Increase the North's share of public investment in research & development funding (R&D) to bring it in line with the Golden Triangle in the next decade - without reducing spending in the South East</p>
<p>3. Power the net zero transition</p> <p>Unlock private investment for a fleet of small modular reactors (SMRs), carbon capture and storage (CCUS), and wider renewables as well as Northern-made heat pumps and home insulation.</p>	<p>4. Close the disadvantage gap</p> <p>Work with schools, charities and agencies to end the education disadvantage gap in the next decade through targeted interventions in persistently disadvantaged areas.</p>	<p>5. Unlock apprenticeships & training opportunities</p> <p>Transform the skills system and encourage businesses to invest in training by devolving more responsibility to metro mayors and allowing more flexibility in the apprenticeship levy.</p>

(Northern Powerhouse Partnership Plan Launched in September 2023)