



## Key Skills Learnt

**Communication:** I learned to communicate effectively within a professional setting, including through presentations focused on conveying data insights accurately to civil servants.

**Time Management:** Balancing cost-benefit analysis with other responsibilities, I honed my time management skills by setting clear plans and dividing tasks into manageable steps.

**Creativity:** In self-guided analysis, my line manager encouraged me to explore various possibilities without predefined “right” answers, fostering creativity in my approach.  
**Adaptability:** Working across different projects required me to adapt quickly to new tasks and collaborate with diverse teams.

## Overview of the Data Fellowship

During my Data Fellowship at the Department for Education (DfE), I analyzed Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) data to support policy recommendations, particularly in alignment with the new Labour government’s Opportunity Mission. My responsibilities included designing and implementing a survey template, conducting cost-benefit analyses, and collaborating with analysts to provide actionable insights on childcare capacity and children’s performance in early years education. This role allowed me to develop technical skills in SQL and Excel, and gain a deeper understanding of how data-driven insights can shape effective policy.

## Data Analysis

I conducted analyses that offered quick insights into how children’s characteristics influenced their performance at the end of their reception year, as assessed by the EYFSP. Supporting the Opportunity Mission’s goal of increasing the percentage of children achieving a Good Level of Development, I examined published findings and underlying data, using SQL to quantify ambitious yet achievable metrics. For instance, I benchmarked the current attainment of girls with no disadvantage factors born in September to set realistic goals. My approach combined qualitative and quantitative methods, involving a thorough review of academic literature from sources like the Education Endowment Foundation. This experience not only improved my data interpretation and cost-benefit analysis skills but also deepened my ability to apply an evidence-based framework to policy recommendations. effective policy.

## Findings

Collaborating with colleagues, I produced a detailed report on childcare capacity and children’s performance at the end of the reception year, supported by visualizations and strategic policy recommendations. Our findings created a foundation for future policy direction, supporting the Department’s efforts to reach ambitious child development targets under the Opportunity Mission. By setting clear metrics and evidence-based goals, we outlined strategies that could be pursued at varying budget levels, thereby offering data-driven guidance for strategic decision-making.

This fellowship has been a transformative experience, enhancing my technical skills, broadening my understanding of policy work, and shaping my career ambitions. Working in a collaborative environment, I gained practical skills in data analysis, survey design, and research application, contributing to initiatives that support early childhood development and align with the Opportunity Mission.

As an international student and non-native English speaker, I embraced the challenge of meeting the role’s demands and worked hard to strengthen my skills and knowledge, and this experience was pivotal for my professional growth, providing insight into the educational field and reinforcing my commitment to impactful, data-driven work.

I am grateful to the Data Fellowship program for championing equal opportunities for international students, allowing us to make meaningful contributions within a professional setting.

