

**Mailing List**



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# Q-STEP FELLOWSHIP 2026

"I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH"

"WHAT IF I MESS IT UP?"

"EVERYONE ELSE PROBABLY KNOWS MORE THAN ME"

*The fellowship is not just about doing a project  
It's about noticing how much you grow along the way!*

**18 March 2026, Q-Step 2026**



# WHAT IT IS

8-week paid summer data fellowship

Work on real data projects with external organisations

Build practical skills and experience alongside your degree

Faculty of Humanities pays your salary

You remain connected to the University through reflective learning

Open to Social Sciences students interested in developing data skills



**Q-Step Data Fellowships 2026 | Faculty of Humanities | The University of Manchester**

Explore the 2026 Q-Step data fellowships at The University of Manchester and apply your quantitative skills in paid research placements.

 Faculty of Humanities

# WHAT YOU GAIN

- Real experience working with data
- Experience working with external organisations
- Something strong for your CV
- Confidence using data in practice



# KEY DATES

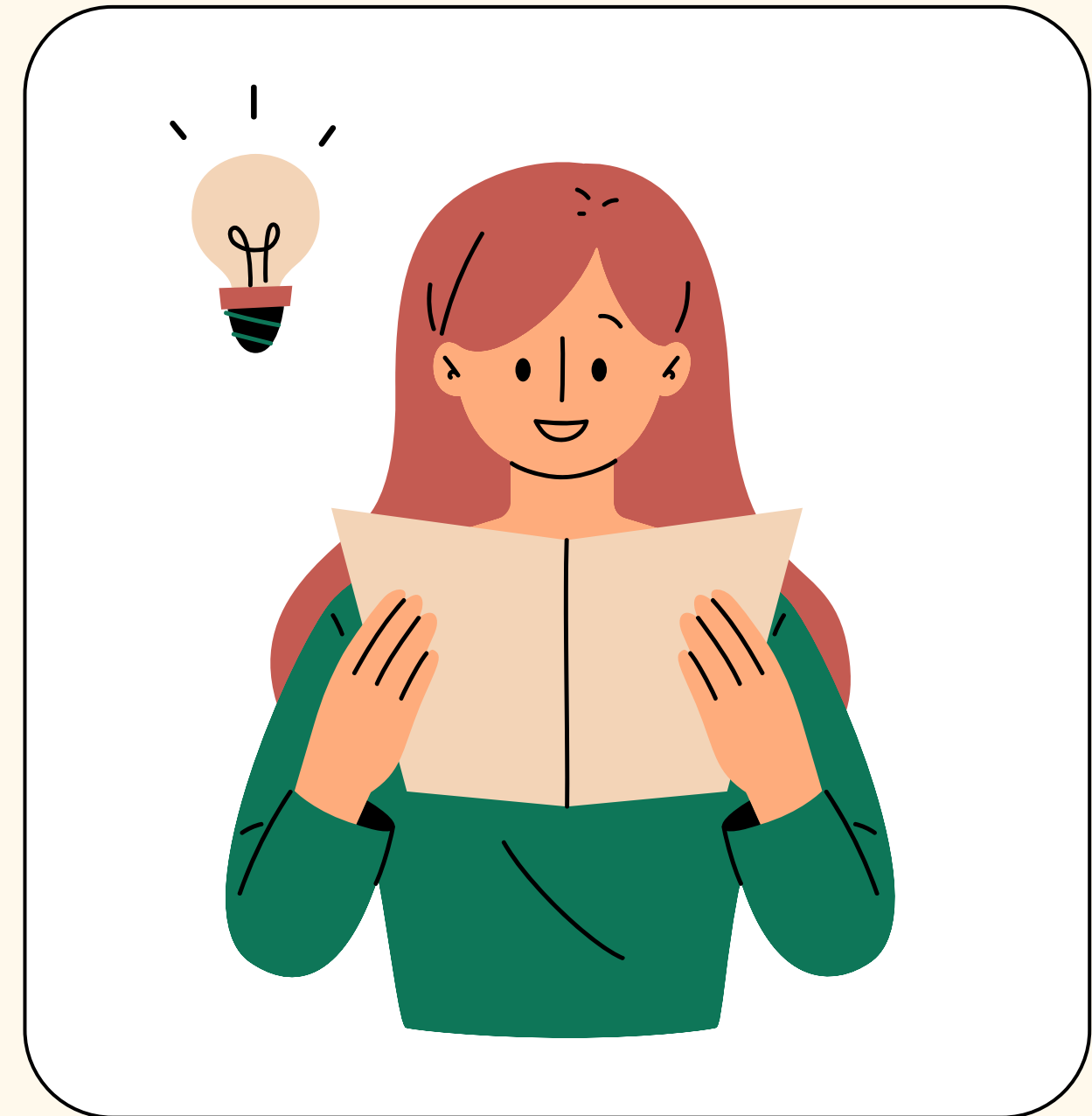
Applications open  
**27 February**

**Application deadline**  
**13 April**

**Interviews**  
**15 April – 18 May**

**Placements confirmed**  
**18 May**

**Placements run**  
**July – August**  
**(8 weeks)**



# Q-Step Data Fellowships 2026 are now open!

## What are they?

Q-Step Data Fellowships are **8-week paid projects** where you'll work with real organisations on real data, building practical skills and experience alongside your studies.

They're open to **SoSS students** and are a great way to boost your CV and confidence.

New opportunities will be added to the **Q-Step website throughout March**, with projects at organisations such as **Manchester City Council, IPPR, Resolve Poverty**, and more.

## Want to find out more?

We're running **three friendly training sessions** to help you understand what the Data Fellowships involve and to support you through the application process:

**11<sup>th</sup> March** – CV Session with the Careers Service – 12:00-13:00, Arthur Lewis Building G30/31

**18<sup>th</sup> March** – Step Up Your Confidence session with Tatjana Keckojevic - 12:00-13:00, ALB G30/31

**6<sup>th</sup> May** – Interview Skills Session with the Careers Service - 12:00-13:00, Arthur Lewis Building G30/31



Follow us for updates!



Contact: [q-step@manchester.ac](mailto:q-step@manchester.ac) The University of Manchester

# ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY: ESSEX SUMMER SCHOOL IN SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA ANALYSIS

## Two-week intensive quantitative methods training

Open competition across all Q-Step programmes  
approximately 3–5 scholarships available

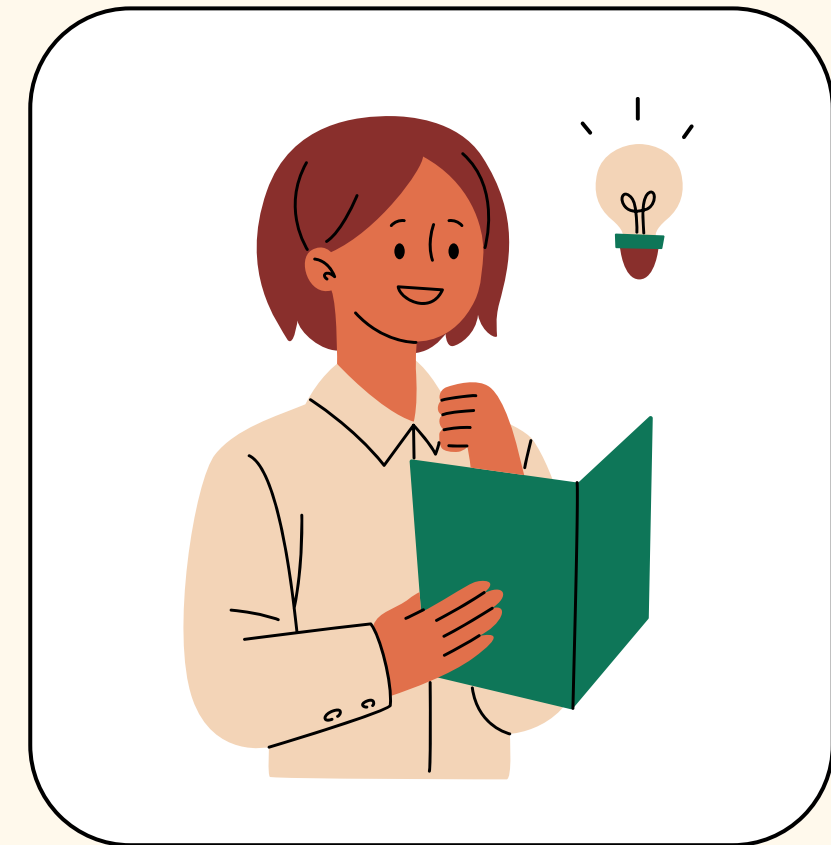
Possible topics include:

- R programming
- Causal inference
- Machine learning
- Survey analysis
- Text analysis

**Scholarship available for Q-Step students**

**Covers tuition and course materials**

**Sessions run in July and August**



**Application deadline 3 April**



ESS 2026 course list – Essex Summer School in  
Social Science Data Analysis

Pre-session 1: Monday 29 June – Friday 3 July 2026

Session 1: Monday 6 July – Friday 17 July 2026

 Essex Summer School

# KEY INFORMATION

## What it is

A Q-Step Scholarship for the Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis

## What it covers

Full tuition and course materials

## What it does NOT cover

Accommodation and travel

## How many places

Around 3–5 scholarships total across all Q-Step programmes

## When it happens

- Session 1: 6–17 July 2026
- Session 2: 20–31 July 2026
- Session 3: 3–14 August 2026

## Deadline

**3 April 2026 (5pm)**

## How to apply

Online application form + transcript emailed to them

The email should:

- go to the scholarship email address
- have the subject line: “Q-Step Scholarship\_[last name]”

## Eligibility

Q-Step undergraduate students who performed well in quantitative modules

## Important constraint

Students would normally choose this instead of the Q-Step Fellowship, because the dates overlap

# THE UK DATA SERVICE DISSERTATION AWARD

## Our annual Dissertation Award is open for 2025-2026

The UK Data Service Dissertation Award recognises students who use data from the UK Data Service in their undergraduate dissertations. **Each winning entry will receive a £300 award and publicity via our website, blog and newsletter.**

### Eligibility

Entries to the award are open to undergraduate students at UK universities writing dissertations:

- on social science topics
- using data available via the UK Data Service data catalogue (either for all or part of the analysis)
- and submitted in the 2025-2026 academic year.

Family members of staff working for the UK Data Service at any institution are not eligible to enter.

### How to enter

To enter, students must complete the Dissertation Award entry form.

Using your institutional email address, email the completed form and a copy of your dissertation to [ukdstraining@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:ukdstraining@manchester.ac.uk).

The deadline for submissions is 12.00 (lunchtime) on **Wednesday 1 July 2026**. Submissions received after this date will not be accepted.

The judging process

# REFLECTIVE LEARNING DURING YOUR FELLOWSHIP

Making sense of what you're learning as you go...

## You'll complete three short reflections

- Early on (first week or so)
- Midway through the fellowship
- At the end

## This is not “extra work”, it's part of your learning

- Helps you notice what you're learning
- Helps you track your progress over time
- Makes your final poster much easier to write
- Gives you something to draw on for CVs, interviews, applications

## We're not looking for perfect writing

### We're interested in:

- What you're doing
- What you're learning
- What's going well
- What's challenging or confusing

## Write like a human

- It's not an academic essay
- It doesn't need references
- It doesn't need to sound “clever”

## Each reflection has a slightly different focus

**Reflection 1:** first impressions, how it feels starting

**Reflection 2:** skills you're developing (analytical + professional)

**Reflection 3:** what you've learned overall and how you've changed

## This is your space to think

- It's not assessed
- It's not about getting things “right”
- You can be honest about challenges

# REFLECTIVE LOG: HOW WE USE IT

## We stay in touch during the fellowship

- We read your reflections
- It helps us support you if needed
- It helps us understand your experience

## Reflection builds confidence

- You start to see what you can actually do
- You recognise progress you might otherwise miss

**You'll be surprised how much you've grown when you read your first reflection back at the end**



# QUESTIONS?

Interested in data but not confident yet?

That is exactly why we created **Data4All**

- Meet other students
- Ask questions
- Try things out

