

University of Manchester Q-Step Summer Project 2016

Ref: #03 UoMQStep 2016 UCL-RIISH

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Organisation Name: University College London

Team / Department: Centre for Sexual Health & HIV Research in the Research Department of Infection & Population Health

Address: UCL – 3rd floor Mortimer Market Centre, off Capper Street, London WC1E 6JB

Provisional title for project: RIISH (Reducing Inequalities and Improving Sexual Health) study

100 word abstract of what the project would probably undertake, and any data to be used:

We are currently carrying out surveys of patients attending 15 sexual health clinics across England to investigate why some population groups experience higher rates of diagnoses with sexually transmitted infections (STI) than others. We will link these anonymised survey data, which include self-reported sociodemographic and behavioural data to routinely-collected data on the tests and diagnoses that people receive in clinic. We will then carry out bivariate and multivariate analyses to identify the factors associated with having STIs diagnosed. We will also prepare short reports to summarise the findings for each of the clinics that have participated in our study.

Key words (up to 12): sexual health, sexually transmitted infections, survey methods, real-life data

Essential and desirable skills that the student would need to have:

Essential:

- Competence in undertaking descriptive analyses, crosstabulation, and logistic regression
- Ability to use the statistical software package Stata
- An organised, logical and analytical approach to work with attention to detail
- Careful and systematic approach to checking data and reviewing statistical analyses
- Excellent interpersonal, oral and written communication skills

- Highly self-motivated and hard working
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively
- Comfortable with researching sexual health issues

Desirable:

- Understanding of sexual health issues
- Understanding of survey research methods

Where the work would be carried out:

The Mortimer Market Centre in the UCL Centre for Sexual Health and HIV Research, Research Department of Infection and Population Health, University College London, central London.

Preferred selection method (interview or other meeting):

Interview

Support and training offered by the organisation:

The intern will be supervised by Dr Sonali Wayal, Research Associate and RIISH Study Co-ordinator and through her to Dr Cath Mercer, Reader in Applied Statistics and Co-lead of the RIISH study.

Any issues of data confidentiality and/or IPR that would need to be resolved:

All the data to be analysed is anonymised, nonetheless, given the sensitive nature of the research project, the intern will be expected to treat the data and findings as confidential.

Supporting information:

This work will be undertaken as part of the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Health Protection Research Unit (HPRU) in Blood-borne and Sexually Transmitted Infections, see: <http://bbsti.hpru.nihr.ac.uk/> specifically working on Theme A which seeks to Understand Risk and Risk Reduction, see: <http://bbsti.hpru.nihr.ac.uk/our-research/research-themes/theme-overview-understanding-risk-and-risk-reduction-sexually>

Financial assistance offered by the organisation:

None