University of Manchester Q-Step Summer Project 2016

Ref: #49 UoMQStep 2016 UoM British Election Study

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Organisation Name: British Election Study, University of Manchester

Team / Department: British Election Study

Address: 2.13, Humanities Bridgeford Street Building, University of Manchester

Provisional title for project: British Election Study Research

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

The British Election Study (BES) is one of the longest running election studies world-wide and the longest running social science survey in the UK. It has made a major contribution to the understanding of political attitudes and behaviour over nearly sixty years. Surveys have taken place immediately after every general election since 1964.

You will join the BES team to help on a variety of projects central to the making the survey a success; coding open-ended responses to BES survey questions; assisting in survey documentation and data cleaning; and taking part in linking electoral registration data to the BES survey data – in a partnership between the BES and the Electoral Commission.

You will also contribute to research on individual electoral registration, and do an original piece of research using newly gathered BES data on the referendum on Britain's membership of the EU. With access to expert insights into the data, you will conduct data analysis which – if of a suitable quality – will be published on the BES website.

Key words (up to 12):

British Election Study data, coding, data input, blogs, EU referendum, electoral registration.

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

Essential:

The student should be eager, hard-working, and be a careful worker with excellent attention to detail. They should be able to use SPSS to conduct simple data analysis and be confident using excel. They should have an interest and understanding of British politics.

Desirable:

Understanding of election statistics.

Where the work would be carried out:

University of Manchester campus with regular remote contact with different members of the BES team (who are not in Manchester). It may be necessary to travel to London for electoral registration work (offices of the Electoral Commission), and Oxford to assist in registration linking.

Preferred selection method (interview or other meeting):

Interview

Support and training offered by the organisation:

Supervision from a member of the team and detailed examples and initial support for data coding/inputting.

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

Any data at the Electoral Commission must not leave the Commission offices. Registration linking also involves personal data and must be carried out under secure conditions.

Supporting information:

n/a

Financial assistance offered by the organisation:

Unfortunately we are unable to offer any additional funding to the student directly. We would, however, cover travel expenses to London and Oxford if this is required for the research.