Q-Step Summer Project 2017:

University of Manchester & University of New South Wales

Ref: #30 UoMQStep 2017 UoM & University of New South Wales Drug Source & Price Analysis

Team/Department: Criminology (School of Law) & Drug Policy Modelling Program, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW Australia

Address: School of Law, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

Provisional Title for Project: "Supply Sources and Price Differentials by Domestic and International Cryptomarket Vendors: A Multi-Country and Multi-Drug Study"

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

The continuous monitoring of cryptomarkets provides excellent information about drug pricing for a variety of drugs and weights/forms, but that monitoring data is limited because it is not clear in which country the buyer resides. In order to work out whether cryptomarkets offer more or less expensive prices for a similar drug weight/form from specific countries, the Global Drug Survey included new questions in 2017 that assess the last time survey respondents paid for cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy pills, MDMA powder-crystal, amphetamine and methamphetamine: the source, the amount and the price. Source options include standard options as well as cryptomarket vendors from their own country (domestic) or from outside their own country (international). This project will be the first to compare large samples of price information by source for the same drug/form/weight within the same country. It will also provide new information on the extent to which residents of particular countries choose to use domestic versus international vendors.

Key Words (up to 12): Drug Pricing, Cryptomarkets, Different Drug Supply Methods, Global Drug Survey, Drug Trend Monitoring, Multi-Country Comparisons

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

Essential: Data analysis skills
Use of SPSS/Stata and spreadsheets
Good organisational skills
Report writing and good communication skills

Desirable: The use of statistical program syntax, ideally Stata

Preferred selection method: Interview (Monica will be in Manchester from 29/5 to 23/6)

Support and training offered by the organisation:

Training in use of SPSS/Stata & Excel, guidance on coding and analysis will be provided in ongoing supervision and management.

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

A data agreement would be set up with the Q-Step candidate through the Global Drug Survey. This is a routine agreement stipulating that the data can only be used for the specific purpose of this project.

Supporting Information:

The student will receive co-supervision between Monica Barratt at UNSW (via Skype) and Judith Aldridge at the University of Manchester

The student will have the opportunity to contribute to a publication in a peer-reviewed journal arising from this project.

Financial assistance offered by the organisation: N/A