Q-Step Summer Project 2017:

University of Manchester & University of New South Wales

Ref: #31 UoMQStep 2017 UoM & University of New South Wales Drug Cryptomarkets

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: "Drug Cryptomarkets: Capacity to Provide Demand and Supply Side Drug Monitoring Information"

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

Drug cryptomarkets – more popularly known as 'darknet' drug markets – have provided researchers and policy makers with unprecedented information about drug markets – the illegal drugs available for sale, their price, and the location of drug sellers. Because cryptomarkets allow researchers to estimate actual transactions and sales, we can also learn more about what drugs are being purchased by drug users, so filling in the 'demand' side of the puzzle too. This project will examine what we can learn from drug cryptomarket data by comparing results to those obtained from the Global Drug Survey – the largest non-population derived survey of drug users in the world. The comparison will allow us to learn more about the advantages and limitations of using drug cryptomarket data as a drug monitoring tool.

Key Words (up to 12): Drug Monitoring, Drug Supply, Drug Use, Drug Policy, Drug Markets, Prevalence, Population Studies, Surveys

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

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

Desirable: Multivariate modelling skills

Preferred selection method: Interview

Support and training offered by the organisation:

Training in use of SPSS & 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: N/A

Supporting Information: N/A

Financial assistance offered by the organisation: N/A