Q-Step Summer Project 2017:

Students' Union

(University of Manchester)

Ref: #34 UoMQStep 2017 Students' Union (UoM)

Team/Department: Insight Department

Address: University of Manchester Students' Union, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PR

Provisional Title for Project: "International Student Engagement at the University of Manchester Students' Union"

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

The University of Manchester Students' Union represents the 40,000 students at the university. With a student population hailing from 160 countries, the university is a highly multicultural place to study. Our membership data however suggests that international students are underrepresented in the union's activities and societies.

Analysis of international student data from multiple datasets is required to understand the scope of representation and involvement of international student engagement within the organisation. An optional qualitative phase may include interviews with leaders of the International Society. The final report will include recommendations to improve international student engagement in the Students' Union.

Key Words (up to 12): International, Students, Students' Unions, Membership, Societies, Activities, Policy, Higher Education, CRM, Database

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

Essential: Ability to use SPSS to perform both descriptive analyses and bivariate analyses (ie Chi-Square)
Knowledge of student population at University of Manchester
Knowledge of the Students' Union purpose and activities
Ability to work independently with little supervision
Excellent writing skills

Desirable: Prior or current Students' Union involvement (such as member of a society, involvement in activities or volunteering, student officer or student rep, part time work)

Preferred selection method: Interview

Support and training offered by the organisation:

The researcher will receive continuous support from the Education Research Coordinator and Insight Manager. They will also receive support in how to manage large datasets in SPSS and prepare the data for analyses. The researcher will have agency to decide upon the format on the final report and recommendations.

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

Dataset will be anonymised. However, in order to meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act the researcher will not be permitted to take the raw data away from the University. All analyses will therefore have to be undertaken on university campus, ideally in the Students' Union staff office.

Supporting Information: N/A

Financial assistance offered by the organisation: N/A