Q-Step Summer Project 2017:
Office for Social Responsibility/Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
(University of Manchester)

Ref: #39 UoMQStep 2017 Social Responsibility, Equality, Diversity, Inclusion (UoM)

Team/Department: Office for Social Responsibility/Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Address: Coupland 1 Building (G6), Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL

Provisional Title for Project: "Understanding Differential Student Attainment – An Intersectional Approach"

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

The University of Manchester (UoM) is committed to providing 'Outstanding Learning and Student Experience' (Manchester 2020, Goal 2) that maximises the potential of all students. However, like other Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), 'attainment gaps' exist between students from different backgrounds. For example, Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) undergraduates are less likely than White British students to be awarded 2.1 or above. Project aims: To explore the intersections between key variables in UoM student data that are associated with attainment (e.g. ethnicity and social class) to identify i) where best to target interventions ii) areas where further evidence is needed.

Key Words (up to 12): Attainment, Ethnicity, Gender, Social Class, Mental Health & Wellbeing, Disability

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

Essential: Understanding of selection of variables for research; dataset manipulation skills; data analysis skills and experience with quantitative data; basic knowledge of statistical packages such as SPSS, Stata, R or other; knowledge of Microsoft Office; excellent oral and written English

Desirable: Experience with multivariate analyses; advanced knowledge of SPSS; above basic experience with Stata, R or other statistical package; evidence of previous report writing and/or communicating findings to different audiences

Preferred selection method: Interview/Skype interview

Support and training offered by the organisation:

Access to online materials and opportunity to attend seminars and webinars delivered by Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research (CMIst): www.cmist.manchester.ac.uk. Support from senior bio-statistician.

Throughout the placement, the student will be guided and supported by the PI and members of the ED&I team whilst being expected to think and work independently. Members of the team are highly experienced in working with these data. There may be opportunities to contribute to HEFCE-funded project to address barriers to student success. Towards the end of the placement, the student will have a feedback interview on their work as well as presenting findings to Office for Social Responsibility and ED&I colleagues.

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

The successful candidate would be expected to adhere to data management/protection and confidentiality policies and procedures. Any specific issues of confidentiality that arise during the project will be agreed with the student.

Supporting Information:

It is anticipated that the student will produce a project report. Depending on the quality of the work, we would support the student to publish in relevant peer reviewed journal.

During the placement, there will also be opportunities to write blogs or thought pieces – for example, related to policy www.policy.manchester.ac.uk or Social Responsibility: www.socialresponsibility.manchester.ac.uk

Financial assistance offered by the organisation:

We may be able to provide modest support towards the student's cost of travel from home to Manchester at the start of the placement and return at the end.