

Reflections on my CHERIL project

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What we said we'd do

Project Title: <i>Summer internships – what works? Evidencing impact of undergraduate quantitative skills from the University of Manchester Q-Step Centre's Pilot Year</i>
Brief summary (no more than 100 words):
The project will evaluate through in-depth interviews experiences of the first cohort of the University of Manchester's second-year social science students, and their summer employers. The University, one of 15 national Q-Step Centres, is the first to place its second-year undergraduates into real-world summer placements. Our celebration event, 'Stepping Out', has already positioned Manchester central to the debate on the value of internships in developing undergraduate skills and experiences to progress into postgraduate study, and the labour market.

Costs	Salary	Estates	Indirects	Total requested from <input type="text" value="CHERIL"/>
RA ¹	£13,500	£2,787	£12,386	£13,500
Travel and subsistence 4 trips to London for RA				£1,000
Short film working with Feedback Films ² (costs to include 2 trips to London for Carter)				£5,900
				£20,400

What we did

- Semi-structured interviews
 - 18 students
 - 6 employers
 - recorded and transcribed
- Commissioned short films
- Engaged with senior stakeholders
 - At University of Manchester
 - At Nuffield Foundation

- Business as usual especially Q-Step
- PG Cert in HE

[Q-Step is blazing a trail into the workplace for students](#)

2 March 2016

The University of Manchester magazine features Q-Step and the impact it's making in social sciences teaching.

[Data, data everywhere: Celebrating our 2015 internships](#)

20 November 2015

We mark the success of the Q-Step summer internships in 2015 with a celebratory event.

[Anna joins Audienenet after Q-Step internship](#)

2 September 2015

Politics graduate Anna Kiel secured a job with Audienenet after impressing them during her summer internship.

What we produced

Outputs resulting from the project

Short films:

Six short films, commissioned at a cost of £6K, can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/UoMQStep> (YouTube playlist). These are also embedded into the University and Q-Step Centre website, as well as featuring on the Nuffield Q-Step homepage. The films have been used in external presentations to good effect, and internally with students considering undertaking an internship in 2015 (and will be used again with potential 2016 Q-Step interns). Indeed we have confirmation from some students that these were the sole reason they decided to apply for an internship, as they were able to see direct evidence of the benefits to their peers from the previous year's cohort, and it gave them confidence to put themselves forward. These short films are also very highly regarded by employers wishing to consider involvement with Q-Step.

<http://tinyurl.com/UoMQStep>

What we produced

Presentations and events

A series of presentations, drawing on the work undertaken, took place from Jun-Nov.

<p>IASSIST Conference, Minneapolis, USA</p> <p>3-5 June 2015</p>	<p>Carter, J. <i>Have data skills will travel: one summer 19 stories</i></p> <p>http://iassist2015.pop.umn.edu/program/block6#a1</p>
<p>An ASC & RSS Joint Event: The Achievements of the Q-Step Programme</p> <p>29 Sept 2015</p> <p>Organised with Steve Taylor, We Work With Data</p>	<p>Carter, J. <i>Making it Real: From the Classroom to the Workplace</i></p> <p>http://www.statslife.org.uk/events/eventdetail/490/94/an-asc-rss-joint-event-the-achievements-of-the-q-step-programme</p> <p>Recording of the event (at this link), Carter from 14:07-25:09</p> <p>Recording also includes employers and students from Q-Step 2014, Chris Atwood (Home Office) and Teresa Williams (Nuffield Foundation).</p>

<p>Royal Statistical Society Annual Conference, University of Exeter, 6-8 Sep 2015</p>	<p>Carter, J. <i>Do work placements work?: How the University of Manchester Q-Step Centre is making data analysis real for undergraduates by putting them into the workplace</i></p> <p>https://rss.conference-services.net/programme.asp?conferenceID=4494&action=prog_list&session=32902</p>
<p>Panel session for th Annual PSA/BISA Teaching and Learning Conference 2015, University of West of England, 7-8 Sept 2015</p> <p>Conference Title: Investigating pedagogic research and practice in Politics and International Relations</p> <p>Panel Session Four: Critical explorations of student engagement: internships, research and digital imagery</p>	<p>Carter, J. and Simpson, K. <i>Summer internships - what works? Evidencing impact of undergraduate quantitative skills: the case of the University of Manchester Q-Step Centre</i></p> <p>https://www.psa.ac.uk/events/annual-psa/bisa-teaching-and-learning-conference-2015</p> <p>Resulted in request to write up the paper for Special Edition of BISA publication.</p>
<p>Sheffield Methods Institute, 15 Sept 2015</p> <p>New Frontiers in Teaching Quantitative Social Science</p> <p>Panel session: Strategies for QM Delivery and Embedding: What works, and what next?</p>	<p>Carter J: <i>Experiences of the University of Manchester's Q-Step Summer Interns</i></p>
<p>Panel session for Policy Week, 5 Nov 2015</p> <p>Organiser: Dr Jackie Carter</p>	<p>Is that a Big Number? And does it Matter?</p> <p>Chair: Prof Andrew Russell</p> <p>Panel: Jackie Carter, Q-Step Co-director; Hetan Shah, Executive Director, Royal Statistical Society, Megan</p>

And what happened next

3. **Follow-on work** has been enabled by the CHERIL project. A bid has just been submitted for consideration under H-SIF (Humanities Strategic Investment Fund) with Carter as PI and Steve Jones (SEED) as co-I. Learning from the CHERIL project has enabled us to (i) provide an example of a successful project and methodology to a related area of research (employability and social mobility) and (ii) better understand the level of resource required to ensure academic outputs. If this follow-on work is funded there is also the potential for a bid to The Sutton Trust for work that will position Manchester centre stage for an emerging research agenda.

Further work undertaken as a result of this project, due to the success of the six short films in promoting the work, was to seek funding (from DDAR) for an additional short film entirely from the perspective of employers. Discipline Areas involved in Q-Step also contributed to the funding of this film. This has now been developed and is being used successfully in presentations (see comment above from Sheffield Methods Institute event).

Finally - the Q-Step Centre celebrates its students internships with an event being held on 20 November in the Whitworth Gallery. This event will be filmed and short recordings and a promo film will be made available after the event - to promote our work on the website. The films could easily be incorporated into other parts of the University website, and again into the CHERIL website.

Academic outputs

- Paper under review for Statistical Education Research Journal
- Presentation at Australian Consortium for Political and Social Research in Sydney
- RA now working at the UK Data Service and has published her first academic paper



The project that just keeps on giving



Summing up

- CHERIL enabled me to bring in resource and focus on evaluation of a pilot year of internships
- Results have been far greater than anticipated, but need to work alongside other activity
- Would be helpful to have post-project funds to disseminate the outputs
- Highly worth engaging with