

University of Manchester Q-Step Summer Project 2016

Ref: #15 UoMQStep 2016 RECLAIM Young People employment

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Organisation Name: RECLAIM Project Ltd.

Team / Department: Fairer Futures programme

Address: Unit 109-100 Green Fish Resource Centre, 46-50 Oldham Street, Manchester M4 1LE

Background information on RECLAIM: Our vision is of a society in which working class young people are positively seen, authentically heard and can lead meaningful social change. Too few of these young people are reaching positions of influence and leadership as adults due to inequalities in resources, opportunity and encouragement. Our two-year LEAD Programme provides meaningful opportunities for young people to gain skills and experience; they are empowered to challenge negative stereotyping of themselves and their communities and to bring about positive change on an individual and societal level. Fairer Futures is a new national programme for 2016 that will see the production of a research-based, youth-led manifesto for change that leading employers can then adopt. Signing up to the manifesto will commit employers to changing their recruitment and talent development policies to diversify their workforce and improve routes to positions of influence for working class young people.

Provisional title for project: A study of perceptions of employment and career progression held by young people from working class backgrounds.

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

Design, deliver and analyse a national survey to gather quantitative data from young people on their experiences of employment and career progression. Alongside publically available data, build understanding of trends among this group and assess impact of youth sector organisations on long-term life chances.

The project will also include the following elements:

- Identification of partner organisations in key areas or employment sectors who will disseminate the survey with young people.
- Further research with Fairer Futures youth engagement cohort (young people drawn from across the country).

- Analysis of data to identify key challenges for working class young people seeking employment and progression.
- Production of brief report highlighting key findings for public dissemination.

The project's scope and outcomes can be discussed with the candidate at the outset.

Key words (up to 12):

Young people, leadership, education, employment, social mobility, action research, quantitative analysis.

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

Essential:

1. Excellent analytical skills
2. Experience in designing questionnaires and analysing survey data using relevant statistical software
3. A flexible approach to work, with a willingness to initiate / develop suggestions
4. Commitment to the principles and values of RECLAIM and empathy with our mission to end leadership inequality
5. Good writing and communication skills
6. Willingness to work in partnership and collaboratively

Desirable:

1. Interest in and understanding of social mobility indicators, particularly relating to young people

Where the work would be carried out:

Primarily at the RECLAIM office (Green Fish Resource Centre, as above) although some flexibility may be appropriate during data gathering phases e.g. residential youth engagement weekend in summer.

Preferred selection method (interview or other meeting):

Interview.

Support and training offered by the organisation:

RECLAIM will allocate the Fairer Futures Programme Lead to provide day-to-day support and guidance to the selected student, including in framing and undertaking the research. We would be happy to be involved in any future University of Manchester / RECLAIM events where research outcomes are presented. We will be using the outcomes from the project in key documents for the organisation, and will ensure that we work closely with the student to support high quality research.

This project provides an exciting opportunity for a student to gain experience / training in the following areas:

- Working on a national project
- Undertaking supported action research

- Writing a high quality report
- Putting research skills into practice
- Working as part of a multi-disciplinary team
- Gaining knowledge of the youth sector and cutting edge issues therein
- Structured staff training and development opportunities

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

It is unlikely that there will be any data confidentiality issues, though we would wish to have first sight of any reports or presentations produced by the student, as the research will provide key evidence into several strategic documents for the organisation. All findings will be subject to embargo until the national and regional programme launch events have occurred (Sept 2016). The student will be required to adhere to RECLAIM's data protection policies relating to the handling of information provided by participants.

Supporting information:

There is significant potential for the research findings to be presented, and used in discussion with, policy makers and both regional and national officials and media.

Financial assistance offered by the organisation:

We wouldn't be able to provide any additional financial assistance. We will provide a laptop for use in the office if necessary.