

Q-Step Summer Project 2017: Home Office

Ref: #23 UoMQStep 2017 Home Office Psychoactive Substances Act

Team/Department: Home Office: Analysis and Insight

Address: 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF

Provisional Title for Project: "Impacts of the Psychoactive Substances Act"

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

Analysis of published data from a host of sources to establish baselines on indicators for the Psychoactive Substances Act – for example prevalence, enforcement and criminality. This work will also use data to explore other impacts of the Psychoactive Substances Act – for example displacement to other substances or other unintended consequences.

Data sources:

The project involves creative thinking around the range of data sources available across the Home Office and in a number of other government departments and stakeholders (eg Office for National Statistics, Ministry of Justice, Public Health England).

Key data sources include:

- Crime Survey for England and Wales;
- Police National Computer;
- Police Recorded Crime and Police.uk
- Public Health England data

Key Words (up to 12): Administrative Data, Survey Data, Analytical Insight, Psychoactive Substances Act

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

Essential: A good working knowledge and appreciation of administrative and survey data sources, and the different approaches to analysis

A good understanding of Excel and a statistical data package (SPSS, SAS, Stata, ML Win, R)

Drafting in Plain English

A desire to learn and understand

Desirable: Data presentation and visualisation skills

Preferred selection method: Interview (in London)

Support and training offered by the organisation:

Home Office: Analysis and Insight is a learning organisation. All Q-Step placements will be allocated an experienced analytical line manager for the duration of their placement. The line manager will guide the student through their projects.

Introductions to Home Office analysis and policy making will be available to Q-Step placements. Coaching in data sources, analytical skills, and communicating with policy and stakeholders will be available. Some online training will be offered. However, we expect Q-Step placements to be self-starters: seeking out opportunities to learn and advance thinking themselves.

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

Supporting Information:

Placements are open to UK Nationals, British Nationals (Overseas), British Protected Persons, Commonwealth Citizens, EEA Nationals of other member states and certain non EEA family members and Swiss nationals under the Swiss EU agreement. There must be no employment restriction or time limit on your permitted stay in the UK. You should normally have been resident in the UK for the last 3 years.

Successful applicants will need to apply for Home Office security clearance.

For information contact chris.attwood@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

Financial assistance offered by the organisation:

Travel and subsistence costs are met for travel away from the office.