

Q-Step Summer Project 2017: Department for Education

Ref: #41 UoMQStep 2017 Department for Education Childcare Analysis

Team/Department: Early Years Analysis and Research

Address: Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT
OR 2 St Paul's Place, 125 Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2FJ

Provisional Title for Project: "Secondary Analysis of the Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2016 Data"

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

The Department for Education delivers a nationally representative Official Statistic, the Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers. It's widely used as the most robust data source about the early years workforce, including qualifications and pay, and early years providers' finances including costs, income and profitability.

DfE is seeking an excellent analyst to interrogate this rich data source to provide answers to key policy questions. This will include informing high profile developments, such as the Early Years Workforce Strategy, as well as critical analytical programmes such as the evaluation of 30 hours childcare and in-depth analysis of the childcare market. Further value would be added through appraising what could be improved methodologically in future waves of the survey.

Key Words (up to 12): National, Official Statistics, Survey, Early Years, Childcare, Workforce, Qualifications, Policy, Education, Department

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

Essential: Data-set manipulation skills

Data analysis skills and experience with quantitative data-sets

SPSS and Microsoft Office skills

Excellent communication skills and ability to summarise and present complex data and analysis

Desirable: Expertise in manipulating and using survey data

Strong awareness of the wider implications of changes to the survey around costs and respondent burden

Preferred selection method: Interview

Support and training offered by the organisation:

Line manager and data expert support for the project including an introduction to the data source, and analytical software on the job training where required. The placement student will be working directly with civil service analytical professionals but will also gain valuable experience of the policy interface.

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

All outputs and any IP generated by the student will remain the property of the Department.

Supporting Information:

London or Sheffield. We are looking for a full-time placement but would be open to more flexible working hours. Please state in the application whether you would prefer to be based in London or Sheffield and whether you would be able to take up a full-time position.

The Department will set initial questions for the student to answer through their analysis. Examples include what is the ethnic background of early years staff and how does this vary by region/provider type? The placement student will also be expected to identify further questions to address based on discussions with analytical and policy officials. Outputs will include policy facing briefings as well as a possible presentation of their findings to an internal audience - which will be developed with analytical colleagues.

Financial assistance offered by the organisation:

We will pay for any travel that is necessary in the course of the placement that is over and above the usual working day. Commuting expenses will not be paid.