

Q-Step Placement Host Profile

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The Prince's Trust took two Q-Step students on placement.

Briefly describe the projects that your placement student worked on with you.

A range of different tasks, such as conducting literature reviews, cleaning and analysing data, synthesising research and organisational strategy, and providing training on how to use R.



What did the Q-Step student gain?

The students learned about our work with vulnerable young people, the issues that they face and the impact that we can have on them. They also learned about how Monitoring & Evaluation works in a large charity, from how we define and measure our impact to how we collect, analyse and use data.

The students gained hands-on experience in the charity sector, and gained and refined skills in areas such as analysis and synthesis, research, presenting data, designing and providing training, and using digital tools.

What did your organisation gain?

The students took ownership of some valuable work and delivered it to a high standard, and also added extra value through sharing their specialist skills and expertise.

We now have an analysis that brings together findings from all of the internal and external evaluation projects we have undertaken in recent years, along with a summary of external research on interventions with young offenders. And we now have the knowledge of how to conduct basis statistical tests using R.

What skills did the Q-Step students bring?

- Analytical skills which they were able to apply to add value and quality to a range of different tasks
- Knowledge and skills in the discipline of social science, including the ability to assess research and an understanding of statistics
- Digital skills, in particular experience with using R Studio software
- Creativity to find innovative ways of presenting and sharing information

What challenges, if any, did hosting a student present to you/ your organisation?

There were some short periods where we didn't have a task for one of the volunteers, but we wanted to ensure that they were spending their time in a way that was valuable for them and for the organisation.

Will you/your organisation to host more Q-Step students?

We will definitely consider it, if there are periods where we are struggling with capacity or where there are specific projects where we could benefit from the expertise of a student.