

Q-Step Placement Host Profile

Alun Davies Welsh Blood Service

Alun Davies took two Q-Step students on placement at the Welsh Blood Service.



Briefly describe the projects that placement students worked on with you.

Analysis of vasovagal (fainting events) occurrence on donation sessions– testing hypotheses of root causes (time, location, age/gender of donor etc)

'Incident' analysis – errors/events that we need to formally note, investigate and action – establishing whether any themes exist both across and within departments by type, location, time, date etc

Why did you decide to host placement students?

At WBS we are keen to develop partnerships with academic institutions as we are striving to achieve world class status as a blood establishment. Inspiration and support from academia is an essential method for us to develop our ways of working and thinking.

What have been the advantages of hosting placement students to you and your organisation?

Analytical skills are a precious but limited resource internally so having the placement students enables us to progress more analysis and also in different ways that we traditionally use. This helps us to see things our previous approaches to data analysis did not reveal.

Being recognised as an outward facing and innovative organisation helps our reputation which in turn generates more positive associations and opportunities.

What advice would you give to other employers thinking of hosting placement students?

Plan well. Whilst the placements are spread over a few months the actual hands on time is limited and therefore it could be easy to lose 20-30% of the time due to inadequate planning and scoping of the work. Practicalities such as security passes, data governance, PC access, desk space should be sorted in advance of the work. Use existing projects/initiatives (rather than thinking of ideas from scratch) to identify specific pieces of work which will mean they have some definite and more immediate use which will make gathering support for the placement easier.