

Q-Step Placement Host Profile



Judith Archer, Agored Cymru

Judith Archer took three Q-Step students on placement at Agored Cymru in 2017 and 2018.

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

Year 1 projects:

- Assess the perceived value of post 16 education to the adult learner and the impact that it has had on their career and personal development
- Analyse the performance of access learners to see whether age, gender, ethnicity or any other factors have any influence on outcomes

Year 2 project

- Assess the performance of candidates taking the essential skills confirmatory tests to see if there is any variation in performance according to age, gender or learning provider and to see whether there is any specific aspect of the curriculum that a particular group of learners may be struggling with.

Why did you decide to host placement students?

We have developed a good working relationship with Cardiff University in the development of accreditation in social analytics.

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

The work carried out by the learners will help to provide evidence of demand for qualifications and enable us to support our centres to improve their delivery to more effectively meet the needs of their learners.

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

I would advise organisations to think in advance about the type of data that the learners can analyse and report on. Problems may occur when there is a danger of breaching data protection legislation or where results may not represent partner organisations/customers favourably. The students have to be allowed to present their findings and so the project should be chosen accordingly. Appropriate mentoring must be available at all times.

Any other comments?

We were very pleased that Cardiff University took on board our feedback relating to students' ability to use data analysis programmes/software/spreadsheets. This year's candidate has come suitably prepared.