



Queen's University  
Belfast



## Work placements for Social Science students

SCHOOL OF  
Sociology, Social Policy  
and Social Work

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SCHOOL OF  
Politics, International Studies  
and Philosophy



**A step-change in  
quantitative social  
science skills**

Funded by the  
Nuffield Foundation  
ESRC and HEFCE

# WORK PLACEMENTS FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE STUDENTS

As part of the UK-wide Q-Step initiative, we are introducing paid work placements for our Year 2 students over the summer vacation. Students will receive a Q-Step bursary for the duration of their work placement. The aims of the placements are to utilise the quantitative skills the student has gained over the course of their degree and apply these in a suitable work environment.

## WORK PLACEMENT OBJECTIVES

- To provide students with the opportunity to gain real-life work experience before graduation
- To allow students to see the applicability of their quantitative research training in a work environment
- To encourage students to reflect on their career goals and aspirations

## PRINCIPLES OF THE WORK PLACEMENTS

### The employer...

- provides a quantitatively-focused project, e.g. survey design/ administration, analysis of data or collation of numerical and statistical data from a range of sources
- provides on-site supervision and resources, e.g., named mentor, desk and suitable software and other resources

### The student...

- carries out agreed task over set period during the summer period (suggested 4 weeks)
- receives the support from a suitably qualified academic member of staff from the School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, or the School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy

## WHY PROVIDE A WORK PLACEMENT?

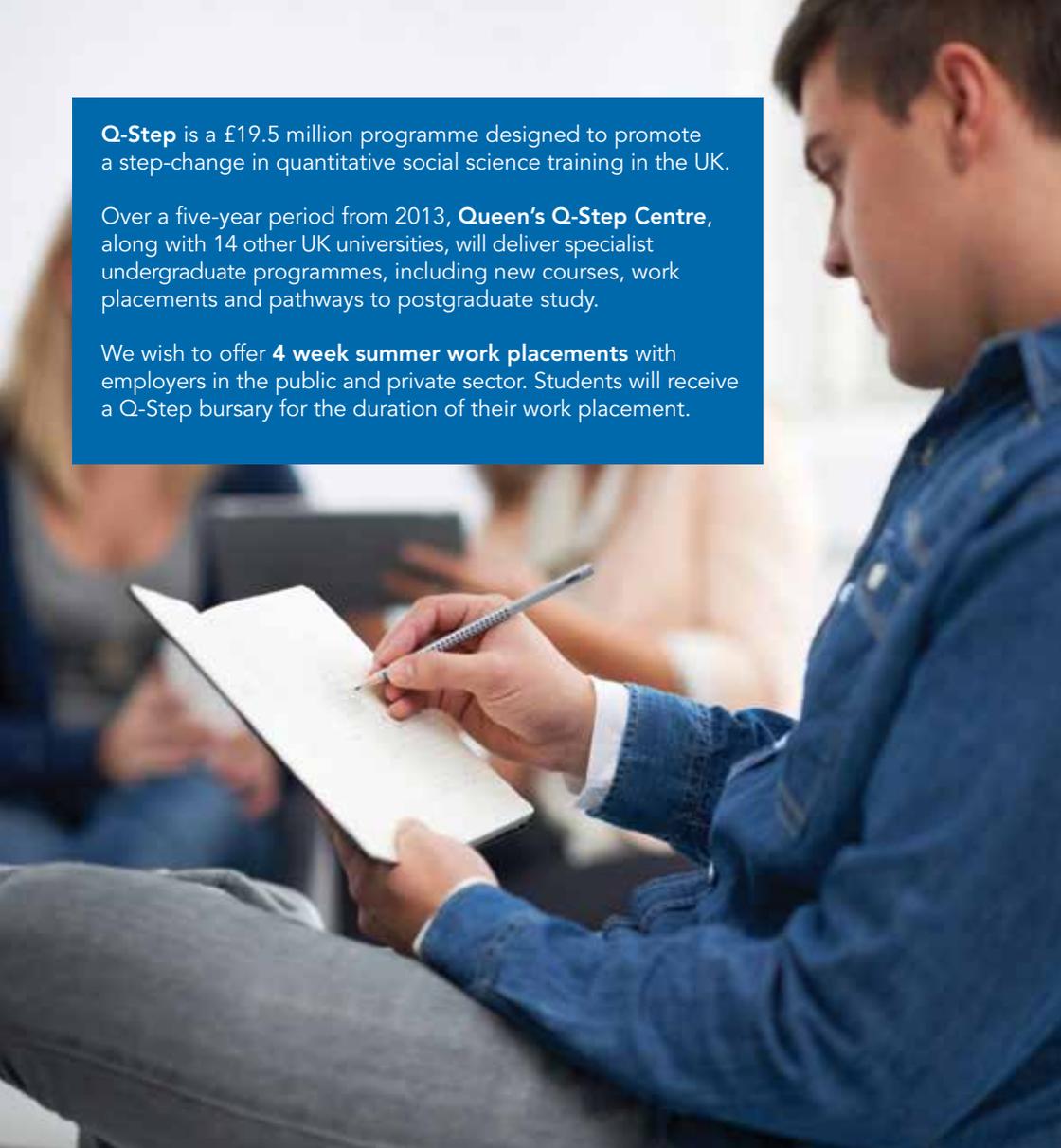
- Support the UK-wide Q-Step initiative to achieve a step-change in undergraduate social science quantitative research training
- Benefit from the skills and input from a motivated student who has received solid introductory training in both qualitative and quantitative research methods
- Provide opportunities for your staff to become involved in the supervision and mentoring of placement students
- Create and consolidate links with Queen's University Belfast

## WHY CHOOSE A QUEEN'S STUDENT?

The successful Q-Step applicant will have demonstrated significant motivation and skills through the competitive application process.

In addition to discipline-specific knowledge, our students will have a broad range of transferable skills.





**Q-Step** is a £19.5 million programme designed to promote a step-change in quantitative social science training in the UK.

Over a five-year period from 2013, **Queen's Q-Step Centre**, along with 14 other UK universities, will deliver specialist undergraduate programmes, including new courses, work placements and pathways to postgraduate study.

We wish to offer **4 week summer work placements** with employers in the public and private sector. Students will receive a Q-Step bursary for the duration of their work placement.

For more details about the Q-Step programme and the opportunity to become involved, please contact:

**Dr Emma Calvert (Q-Step Co-ordinator)**

School of Sociology, Social Policy  
and Social Work

e: [e.calvert@qub.ac.uk](mailto:e.calvert@qub.ac.uk)

t: 02890 973958

**Tom Mervyn**

Employer Engagement Team

e: [t.mervyn@qub.ac.uk](mailto:t.mervyn@qub.ac.uk)

t: 02890 972727

[www.qub.ac.uk/soc/Q-StepCentre](http://www.qub.ac.uk/soc/Q-StepCentre)