

StudentShapers Recruitment:

Careers Accessibility – enhancing social mobility.

Reviewing and enhancing the careers provision for students from Widening Participation background

Bursary:

Up to 8 weeks full-time during the summer-vacation (with flexibility to accommodate holiday plans). Bursary payment of £330 per week up to a total of £2640.

Who should apply:

We're looking for 2 undergraduate students from any year or academic department. Applicants will have a strong understanding of the challenges facing students from WP backgrounds or be from a widening participation (WP) background.

Campus/Location:

South Kensington (with scope for remote working at times).

Project details:

We believe that anyone should have the opportunity to aspire to any career that they want regardless of their socio-economic background. Widening Participation (WP) students are often faced with challenges which can affect their employment outcomes and career readiness especially in comparison to their peers; notably though the lack of social capital, access to (or knowledge of) support resources, lack of role models and additional external pressures. A careers service can play a pivotal role in the social mobility of WP students.

The scope of the project and outputs will be fully defined in collaboration between the appointed students and the staff partners. We want to focus on the career readiness, engagement, and aspirations within our undergraduate WP community; and specifically, to consider both employment and further study routes. While employment outcomes are an important factor, we also identify that WP students are under-represented in postgraduate study, and we're committed to addressing this imbalance. Postgraduate study can increase earnings potential and open elite professions, but it is also a step to addressing longstanding inequalities in academic staff and therefore as future role models.

You will work with staff in the Careers Service and you will also have access to other staff who work in relevant support services. In addition, you will be encouraged to engage key contacts such as Students' Union Liberation Officers and relevant student networks/societies/groups that represent the WP community.

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You will develop a complete view of the challenges facing WP students and you will review the current resources to identify issues, gaps, misconceptions, and failures. You will also collaborate with the staff to make recommendations for improvements and assist in the creation of new resources that better serve the audience. The goal is help dismantle longstanding inequalities as it is recognised that the challenges faced are far broader than financial but more around awareness and access to meaningful support.

You will receive support throughout the project via staff expertise, mentoring and introductions to relevant internal and external partners. This may include specific resources and/or a communication plan that considers the changing needs throughout the student lifecycle from pre-entry to graduation. The aim would be to build a legacy effect and a step-change in how we engage, communicate, and interact with our audience. Outputs will ensure that WP students are best able to succeed to the same extent as their peers.

You will possess:

- Excellent organisation and project management skills.
- Strong interpersonal skills, and the ability to work independently as well as part of a team.
- An ability to see the big picture but also focus on specific aspects.
- Good problem-solving skills and ability to work with ambiguity.
- Creativity and desire to challenge the status quo.
- Passion to improve career support for WP students.

You will gain:

- A bursary payment for up to 8 weeks (maximum of £2640).
- Experience of working on a real-life consultancy project.
- Client management and team working skills in a professional context.
- Professional communication skills, both written and verbal.

How to apply:



Applications should be made via the 'Student Expression of Interest' form on the StudentShapers website ([here](#)) or accessed using the above QR code. You should include a 300-500 word statement outlining your interest and motivation in the project and any skills or experience that you will bring to the project team. We would be interested to hear how you meet WP criteria or your understanding of the challenges that WP students may face. Shortlisted students will be invited to an interview with staff members from the project team.

Deadline:

Sunday 27th March 2022 – interviews expected during w/c 4th April 2022.

Contact details:

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