

StudentShapers Recruitment:

Calling all chemical engineering students (2nd or 3rd year) with an East-Asian educational background

Understanding silence among East Asian students in chemical engineering

Bursary:

9 week project: 2 half days for 3 weeks from 10.6.24-28.6.24 (term time) & followed by 6 weeks full time from 1.7.24-9.8.24 (Summer vacation time)

Total bursary amount: £2700 per student (2 student partners)

Who should apply:

We are seeking 2 students from the Department of Chemical Engineering, in their 2nd or 3rd year of studies, who must have an aptitude for educational research. As part of the inclusion criteria, we are seeking students with an East Asian educational background.

Campus/Location: South Kensington Campus and online (there is a lot of flexibility in terms of location)

Project details:

The presence of a large number of East Asian students in UK universities has ignited conversations about their academic and social experiences. One common observation is their relative silence in classroom settings, which can sometimes be misinterpreted as disengagement or lack of understanding. This proposal outlines a research project to investigate the nature and underlying reasons for this perceived silence among East Asian students within chemical engineering. A recent magazine article from an academic in the US has triggered this discussion among the academic community in the department.

This research project aims to: • Provide a nuanced understanding of the phenomenon of silence among students from an East Asian educational background in the department/ • Identify both individual and systemic factors contributing to their silence. • Offer valuable insights for other departments/HEIs to develop targeted support mechanisms and inclusive learning environments that cater to the specific needs of students from an East Asian educational background • Promote intercultural understanding and communication between these students and their peers and faculty members.

Methodology

This research could employ a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques. Potential methods include (but are not limited to): questionnaires, focus groups, and interviews. You are expected to work as independently as possible to gather and analyse the data. As we envisage that you will be coming from a similar background as the students informing your research, you are expected to take some ownership of the design of the project. Whilst you will receive some help and support from the academic partners, this is an opportunity for you to take the lead with your approach. You are not expected to be familiar with educational research and will be provided with training (additionally developing new research skills applicable to social sciences), but must be genuinely interested in the research and demonstrate an aptitude for it.

STUDENTSHAPERS

How to apply:



Applications (300-500 words) should be made via the 'Student Expression of Interest' form on the StudentShapers website ([here](#)) or accessed using the above QR code. This will then be distributed directly to the appropriate staff partner. Shortlisted students will be invited for an interview with the staff partners (Dr Deesha Chadha and Professor Jerry Heng) before a decision is made.

Deadline: 25.3.24

Contact details: Please contact Deesha Chadha, Department of Chemical Engineering for any queries related to the project in the first instance (d.chadha@imperial.ac.uk).