

StudentShapers Recruitment: Calling all *Geology, Chemistry and Computing 2nd and 3rd year students*

Exploring the Social Norms and Cultural Experiences of Undergraduate Students across Different Academic Disciplines

This project is approved pending EERP approval.

Bursary: £60 per week for ½ a day for 12 weeks over first and second semester plus £365 per week for 2 weeks full time following spring term (In total £1450 for the entire project per student). Dates will be confirmed with students based on your schedule

Who should apply:

Second- or third-year students enrolled on the following programmes may apply:

- BEng or MEng Computing or Joint Maths and Computing
- BSc or MSci Geology
- BSc or MSci Chemistry

Campus/Location: South Kensington Campus

Project details:

This study aims to investigate the different cultural values and social norms that exist within three undergraduate degree programmes and understand the ways in which students position themselves in relation to these norms. Students in this project will undertake educational research in their departments through conducting focus groups with undergraduate students. Students will receive training in conducting focus groups and will have the opportunity to be part of subsequent publications. In the Autumn term students will be conducting focus groups and analysing them in the Spring term. During the two weeks following Spring term students will be writing up results and working with departments to explore implementable developments to improve student experience.

When students enter higher education (HE) they begin a process of enculturation into a specific discipline; each discipline carries its own unique set of cultural expectations, values, and norms, which can significantly influence the academic and personal lives of students. The enculturation process can be challenging, particularly for students from underrepresented or marginalised backgrounds, who often find themselves bridging the gap between their own backgrounds and the culture of HE, which tends to privilege certain norms and values over others. The study builds on existing research undertaken by the PI in their PhD research, which investigates the social norms present in a physics undergraduate programme. Undergraduate programmes in Chemistry, Geology and Computing are chosen to represent a diverse range of STEM disciplines.

Understanding the distinctions between disciplines is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, it allows us to greater understand and appreciate the diversity of experiences among undergraduate students, helping educators to tailor support and resources more effectively to their discipline. Secondly, it provides insights into how these distinct norms – which often go unexplored - might impact students' experience and will support college efforts to increase sense of belonging for all students.

How to apply:

Imperial College
London

STUDENTSHAPERS



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.

Deadline: 3rd November 2023

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