

Q-Step Placement Host Profile



Gordon Cameron, Coram Family and Childcare

Gordon Cameron took one Q-Step student on placement at Coram Family and Childcare in 2017 and then another two students in 2018.

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

2017: Student worked on data analysis of Holiday Childcare Survey 2017, and supported a focus group with a group of parents, and analysed the qualitative data from the discussion, for the Future of Children's Centres report

2018: Students worked on data analysis of the Holiday Childcare Survey 2018, and began analysis for a project looking into the school aged childcare in London and its relationship with parental employment across different local authorities over time.

What did the Q-Step students gain?

Students gained the following experiences:

- Working in an office environment for a small charity
- Understanding of UK childcare market and policy context
- Using Excel to conduct data analysis
- Focus group observation and note taking
- Coding qualitative data from focus group discussions
- Reporting data analysis to colleagues
- Presenting findings in report for Coram Family and Childcare audience
- Seeing their work featured in newspapers and on national television – understanding the way that research is reported in the press

What did your organisation gain?

The Q Step placements gave us very welcome extra capacity from highly skilled students. We also gained from their excellent data analysis skills.

What skills did the Q-Step students bring?

As well as their data analysis skills, the students brought strong interpersonal skills which helped them to work well with the rest of the team. They were also skilled at supporting the parent focus group, and ensuring the session ran smoothly.

What challenges, if any, did hosting a student present to you/ your organisation?

None – the first 2018 student was very patient with an office move during her time with us.

Will you/your organisation to host more Q-Step students?

We would like to host more Q-Step students in the future and expect to arrange this directly through Warwick University.