Bath Insights Internship Programme Project Brief

Project title: Doctoral College Education & Policy Internship

Department: Doctoral College

Project theme: Education & Policy

Capabilities: Collaboration; Data literacy; Social and cultural awareness; Critical thinking; Drive and initiative

Project brief: This internship will focus on researching widening participation practices and policies across the higher education sector. Widening participation is about making higher education more accessible and inclusive for people who may face barriers to studying at university, helping to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed.

Currently, there is no nationally agreed definition of widening participation at doctoral level (post graduate research). However, there is a growing recognition across the sector of the need to establish clearer criteria and definitions to support fair and consistent access to doctoral study. During the internship you will work on creating some qualitive analysis that can be used to support future decision-making within the Doctoral College at the University of Bath.

The internship aim is:

Supported by colleagues within the Doctoral College, the intern will support the delivery of a set of focus groups with PGRs from a widening participation background and carry out a literature review on the sector position on widening participation.

Specific tasks include:

- conduct focus groups with current PGR students at the University of Bath to explore their experiences. Contacting participants, supporting the design of the focus group and reporting on the outcomes
- conduct a literature review to identify national best practice in widening participation policy and practice
- analyse widening participation indicators and applicant demographics in the PGR data set
- with guidance from Doctoral College colleagues, produce visualisations, summaries of key findings, and evidence-based recommendations to inform future policy and practice

Main outputs or deliverables: The project and the report that is produced will help ensure that widening participation activities and doctoral recruitment processes are effective as they can be at the University. The recommendations will support enhancing access to doctoral study and improving the experience of prospective applicants from underrepresented backgrounds.