Bath Insights Internship Programme Project Brief

Department: Library

Project theme: Student Support

Capabilities: Data literacy; Critical thinking; Creativity and innovation; Communication; Collaboration; Drive and initiative; Professionalism; Adaptability

Project brief: Understanding and Enhancing Student Engagement with the Library Nook. The Library Nook provides a dedicated wellbeing space within the Library, offering opportunities for relaxation, creativity, connection, and support. While the Nook is valued by many students, there is an opportunity to better understand how the space and resources are used, which student groups engage with it and which are underrepresented, what aspects students find most beneficial, and where improvements could enhance their experience. This will help the Library to identify opportunities to increase awareness, broaden participation, and maximise the Nook's contribution to student wellbeing and belonging.

The intern will analyse available usage data, explore student perceptions of the Library Nook, review promotional approaches used within and beyond the University, and identify barriers and motivation for student engagement. They will develop evidence-based recommendations to enhance awareness, accessibility, and uptake, helping the Library maximise the Nook's contribution to student wellbeing and belonging.

Project objectives:

The intern will:

- analyse available data on use of the Library Nook and related wellbeing activities
- identify trends, patterns, and any student groups that are less likely to engage with the Nook
- explore student awareness, perceptions, and experiences of the Library Nook through surveys, interviews, focus groups, or desk research
- review how wellbeing spaces are promoted and used in other UK higher education libraries and student support services, identifying examples of effective practice
- investigate barriers that may prevent students from using the Library Nook
- produce recommendations for increasing awareness, participation, and inclusivity

Alignment with department and University goals:

This project supports the Library's commitment to creating inclusive, welcoming spaces that enhance student wellbeing and belonging. By investigating how students engage with the Library Nook, identifying barriers to participation, and exploring opportunities to increase its visibility and accessibility, the project will provide evidence to inform future development of the space and help ensure it meets the needs of a diverse student community.

The project also aligns with the University's strategic focus on student wellbeing, inclusion, and community. Understanding how students use and perceive the Library Nook will help demonstrate the value of informal wellbeing spaces in supporting a positive student experience, while the resulting recommendations will contribute to creating a more connected, supportive, and inclusive campus environment.

Suitability for a Bath Insights Intern

The project is designed to be achievable within the eight-week internship period and is suitable for a student with limited prior work experience. The work will provide opportunities to develop research, data analysis, communication, stakeholder engagement, and problem-solving skills. Support will be provided by Library staff throughout the project, while allowing the intern sufficient independence to conduct meaningful analysis and produce recommendations that can inform future practice.

Main outputs or deliverables: By the end of the internship, the intern will produce:

- an analysis of student engagement with the Library Nook
- insights into student awareness, perceptions, motivations, and barriers
- identification of good practice relating to wellbeing and community spaces in UK higher education settings
- a set of evidence-based recommendations to increase engagement with the Library Nook
- a presentation outlining practical actions and potential future developments for the Library Nook

The project will involve some initial 'desk based' research on literature and other libraries' approaches to reading for pleasure and wellbeing spaces, as well as looking at existing Nook usage data (e.g from our Library management system) and reviewing current Nook promotional and engagement work. Additional student feedback gathered directly by the Intern will be with students available on campus over summer period e.g. gold scholars, other Insights Interns, student ambassadors, and PGTs. Staff feedback could supplement this, with the Intern potentially being involved in a summer programme of Nook-based activities for staff and PGs.