



**MEMO**

to:

from: Dr Emma Tobin & Dr Melanie Smallman

25-Feb-19

re: STS summer studentships

**STS summer studentships**

UCL Department of Science and Technology Studies offers 6 paid research studentships for work experience associated with staff and alumni research within and beyond STS. Up to six studentships are available.

Each studentship involves 80 hours in total, envisioned as approximately ten hours work per week for eight weeks. The work must commence in June 2018. It must be completed by the end of August 2018. The precise distribution of hours will be agreed between the post holder and the project manager.

Pay will be £13.19 per hour, totalling 80 hours over the course of the studentship. (London living wage currently is £10.20 per hour.)

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must demonstrate general knowledge and understanding of the subject area and must be a UCL student – some relevant experience is STS is essential (e.g students should have taken at least a couple of modules in STS at BSc or MSc level). General skills for the post include: excellent time management, ability to work independently and to multi-task, excellent communication skills, and ability to take initiative. UCL student status is required for this position.

These studentships are intended primarily for undergraduate students to offer paid work experience in research. Taught postgraduate students may apply, but undergraduates will be considered preferentially. Research postgraduate students are not eligible to apply. Employment requires a right-to-work in the UK.

**Application procedure**

Those wishing to apply must submit a one-page CV plus a one-page personal statement describing why they are a good fit for the project. In addition, please provide the name of one academic referee who can be asked to advise during the selection process. Applicants must submit a customised personal statement for each project they wish to be considered for.

Letters of application, CV and personal statements must be received no later than Monday **11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 17:00p.m.** These must be sent by email to <sts-vacancies@ucl.ac.uk>.

Please include the word “studentship” in the subject line of your email. Interviews will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

## **Project 1: Title: Tools for evidence appraisal in health (3 x studentships)**

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**Manager:** Dr Brendan Clarke

**Area:** interdisciplinary across philosophy of science, science policy, qualitative social research, and public engagement

**Skills required:** see project description for more details, but broadly, successful applicants will need an interest in health policy, some experience of relevant philosophy of science, excellent written and oral communication skills, and excellent problem-solving skills. For some aspects of the project, previous experience in qualitative research (surveys, focus groups) or very basic statistical work would be advantageous.

### **Project description:**

This internship project will recruit a group of three students to test and develop a [group of evidence appraisal tools designed for use in medical practice and health policy](#).

The project builds on the work carried out as part of the [EBM+ research project](#). This research sought to develop a new framework for evidence-based medicine that took seriously non-trial evidence as part of the evidence-base for medical decision-making. One of the publications from this research was the EBM+ handbook [Evaluating Evidence of Mechanisms in Medicine: Principles and Procedures](#). This contained a mixture of conceptual work, as well as practical tools for evidence appraisal.

This internship project will involve testing and developing the [evidence appraisal tools](#). There are three strands to this work:

1. **Testing.** The published tools are beta-versions. It would be useful to have e.g. basic reliability testing available. For example, we could test inter-operator reliability (for a piece of evidence under evaluation, do the tools produce consistent results between users?). This strand will consist of:
  - a. developing a strategy for testing the tools in consultation with the supervisor
  - b. recruiting UCL students to do this testing
  - c. managing the testing process
  - d. analysing data

- e. publishing the results on the EBM+ website
  - f. producing a briefing document to feed into the subsequent editions of the tools
- 2. Worked examples.** As [reviews of the book have suggested](#), the tools provided in the handbook would benefit from worked examples. This strand of the project would be to produce worked examples for each of the tools. This would consist of:
- a. finding suitable case(s) to work through using each tool
  - b. using the tools to appraise these cases
  - c. producing guidance and commentary to help readers through each example
  - d. publishing the final guidance on the EBM+ website
  - e. producing a briefing document to feed into the subsequent editions of the tools
- 3. Practitioner evaluation.** Finally, qualitative work with expert practitioners. During the project, several experts from different areas of practice were consulted. We therefore have an existing network of experts, and some detailed feedback on the tools. This strand of the project would be to develop and exploit these resources to guide future improvements in the tools. This would consist of:
- a. reviewing existing feedback and identifying themes in it
  - b. developing a sense of what we'd like to find more out about
  - c. identifying suitable experts (e.g. from existing network) who would give useful perspectives on b.
  - d. interviewing those experts
  - e. developing a briefing document (and, possibly publishing some aspects of the interviews on the EBM+ website) to feed into the subsequent editions of the tools.

In terms of organisation, I think that each strand might well suit one student. Alternatively, I would be exceptionally open to a more collaborative approach, with students taking responsibility for aspects of each of the three strands to suit their skills and interests. All stages will take place with plentiful support and supervision from the supervisor. The timetable will be fairly intensive – I envisage roughly 20 hours per week – for a mutually acceptable block of approximately four weeks in the early summer. Note that aspects that require a longer development time (such as recruiting students) may require a small quantity of work before this main block of the internship. I would envisage at least one weekly group meeting for planning during the main internship. Note that many of these activities will need to be completed during the early summer because project members are planning to work on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the tools and handbook in the late summer/early autumn. The internship activities will also contribute to a draft impact case-study intended for REF2021.

In conclusion, this is a highly CV-able project suiting students with a wide range interests and intended career trajectories. I would be delighted to meet with interested student(s) to discuss before the submission deadline.

## **Project 2: Does the visual culture in evolutionary studies evolve?**

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**Supervisor:** Professor Joe Cain

**Area:** History and Philosophy of Science

**Skills required:** accessing journals via JSTOR and BHL, use of Excel, working knowledge of history of Darwinism (commensurate with STS Year 2).

**Project Description:** Visualization is a topic of huge interest in history and philosophy of science. An STS PhD student recently completed a study of visual culture in cancer biology, using a technique in which she counted visualisations used in a series of journals. This summer studentship will apply her methodology to a series of journals in evolutionary studies. Does the technique transfer to quite a different area? Do the same trends apply?

The thesis is by Dr Yin Chung AU. (2016) Synthesising heterogeneity: trends of visuality in biological sciences circa 1970s - 2000s. Doctoral thesis, UCL (University College London). <http://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/1478180/>

## **Project 3: STS Student Recruitment & Communications Studentship**

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**Supervisor:** Dr Jean Baptiste Gouyon and Malcolm Chalmers

We are looking for a student to help with the Department's recruitment and marketing effort.

The successful candidate will be working with Jean-Baptiste Gouyon and Malcolm Chalmers to produce a number of outputs publicizing the research conducted in the department.

Under the guidance of the supervisory team, the successful candidate will

- Identify a topic which links research conducted in the department with currently debated issues. The idea is to demonstrate the topicality of STS research (climate change, social equality, trust in experts, etc.).
- Produce a number of concrete outputs on this topic—podcasts and short captioned video clips—using existing footage and recordings already obtained by the department, and producing new material (film and sound) as required.
- Elaborate a communication strategy using these outputs on social media, and finding ways of evaluating the strategy's efficiency.

From this internship, the successful candidate will acquire or strengthen skills in video and sound production, developing a communication strategy and evaluating its impact.

## **Project 4: 10:10 Climate Action Communication Studentship**

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**Supervisor: Dr Alice Bell (STS Alumni)**

**\*\* (Please note this is based in Camden, but you will be employed by UCL)**

**Area: Science Communication**

### **About the project:**

The Intern will help us write about energy and climate change. We're looking for someone to help boost our digital resources exploring issues in climate change and energy to non-expert (but interested) audiences.

The project can be shaped by your interests. We've got a bucketload of stories about people taking positive, practical action on climate change that need a good storyteller to share. But, if you're more interested in the science end of how we know about climate change, you could interview researchers about their work. Or you might be really into low-carbon tech - great, so are we! You could also work with a range of formats: profiles, journalistic news reporting or explainers. We're looking for some web-copy, but if you're interested in video, graphics and social media (e.g. instagram stories), we can give you a chance to work in these formats too. When you start, we'll work out a portfolio of work that will most suit your interests, and give you support to build it. You'll be joining a crack comms team, including experts in producing web copy, design and social media.

We expect you to work from our offices in Camden, as part of what we can offer is the experience of working as part of the 10:10 team. However, we can be flexible about dates and timings, and working remotely is always an option.

### **About 10:10 Climate Action**

Based in Camden Town, just along from Regents Park, we're a team of about 10-14 people. We're on a mission to speed up action on climate change. Our work cuts carbon, but because we work on a cultural level as well as technical ones, we build projects infectious projects which get people talking. It is always more than just a solar panel here, or an LED there - it's groups of people working with tech to change the world. Whether it's our world-leading Solar Schools campaign, developing solar powered railways, fighting the ban on onshore wind, tree planting or urban heatpumps, everything we do is about engaging more people with more ambitious action on climate change.