

Employed on Campus 2020 Internship Case Study

Fraser McBain

3rd year Economics and Politics student



What was your internship?

Study Hub Intern in the Taught Student Development Team at the Institute for Academic Development

Description of your role and responsibilities

I had to review the 2019-20 content for the Study Hub Blog, considering whether some of it could be removed or re-purposed for 2020-21. I then had to identify gaps in provision on the blog, research these and devise new content to fill them.

What interested you in this specific role?

During my degree, I have really enjoyed writing quantitative research papers. Researching a topic, writing a literature review on it and then running statistical tests to identify whether existing relationships hold for a new case has been of great interest to me. The internship provided me with the opportunity to conduct research, writing and data analysis, so I thought it would be an enjoyable experience. Moreover, it would also give me exposure to working in a professional office environment.

How have you benefited from this experience?

The experience has helped me to develop in a number of ways. Particularly useful has been the opportunity to develop in three chosen skills areas for the Edinburgh Award: planning and organising, written and oral communication, and problem-solving. The remote working experience was also interesting, and it will hopefully stand in me good stead for a job market which may involve more remote working opportunities than was the case in the past. It also gave me the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills learned in my degree on a real-life, employment-related project which will benefit students as they transition to hybrid learning. Finally, the internship allowed me to expand my professional network across the Institute for Academic Development, which will hopefully be useful in the future.

What advice would you give to future interns?

I would advise future interns to harness all the opportunities presented to them. During my internship, I got to go beyond the job description. I got to attend a few events at the Learning and Teaching Conference, for example. These were interesting: they gave me insight into the 'behind the scenes' of the university and how academics work together on designing courses. I also got to work with an Academic Developer on a persona of a commuting student for discussions on the university's transition to hybrid learning. These enriched my experience during the internship. So, always say yes to anything extra you are offered. I would also advise future interns to ask when they are stuck: your line manager and colleagues are supportive, so do not be shy!

Where can we find some of your work?

<https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/studyhub/>