

Placement opportunities for SWDTC students

The University of Bath's Public Engagement Unit

The University of Bath's Public Engagement Unit (PEU) was established in 2012 following a grant from Research Councils UK and with a brief to embed a culture of public engagement with research across the University. The Unit is based in the Department of Marketing & Communications and through its work, supports researchers from any discipline to engage non-academics with research. Since 2012, we have:

- Funded over 50 engaged research projects (the vast majority in the local community);
- Delivered training to over 1000 researchers;
- Run a variety of Festivals (e.g. Pint of Science Festival);
- Run over 20 on-campus engaged research events, including public engagement conversations and an Images of Research competition;
- Given over £30,000 of grants to local community organisations
- And much, much more!!

We currently have **three internship opportunities** as below, which are open to SWDTC ESRC-funded students at Bristol, Bath and Exeter. We're a small team – just two full-time equivalents – so you'll have a real chance to make a significant contribution to public engagement with research at the University. We can be flexible about ways of working (length of placement and full vs. part-time) and immediate starts are welcome!

We offer interns:

- A mentoring approach and a single point of contact in our team
- Insight into innovative culture change with regards to public engagement
- The development of their own coaching, mentoring, and reflective practices
- More than just the 'doing' of a range of activities rather, a broader understanding of and involvement in the public engagement agenda across higher education. We'd want an intern to attend relevant conferences and to meet public engagement contacts in other universities
- Experiential learning, learning by doing
- Increased knowledge and experience of public engagement across disciplines. We work across 16 academic departments and would expect the intern to do the same
- Insight into working in professional services in a large, research-intensive university
- Fun, diverse and challenging experiences!

The opportunities

(1) Events Management

In the 2016 – 2017 academic year, we're looking to run two brand new events and need an intern to take overall responsibility for these, leading on their design, delivery and evaluation. The planned events are:

- **Expressions of Research**, a project that has linked artists to five of our research centres with the researchers and artists working collaboratively to produce art works inspired by the research. The plan is to tour the exhibit around Bath & NE Somerset and we'll need help in planning and conducting this tour, **which will run from November 2016 onwards**
- **Seed funds Conference** – since 2013, we've funded over 30 public engagement with research projects at the University. We're looking to host a conference that pulls together core learning from these projects and that helps those involved in them to think more critically and in-depth about their experiences. We need help in the design and delivery of this conference as it'll be the first time we've held such an event, and **we hope for it to run in early 2017**

(2) Researching the Research: Participatory Action Research & Community Engaged Projects

As a Unit, it's important that we capture data and experiences arising from projects we've funded and that we undertake research on key engaged research processes. We're particularly interested in participatory action research (PAR), exploring the benefits and challenges of this approach for those involved. Ideally, **we'd like this work to take place before Christmas 2016.**

We need an intern to support research and evaluation of two projects:

- **Community Matters**, a programme that has funded five PAR projects across Bath & NE Somerset. The projects involve researchers working alongside local community organisations on research projects devised by the organisations.

Dr Leda Blackwood is conducting research on the PAR process and on the programme as a whole, capturing motivations and experiences of the community and researchers involved. The intern will support Leda in this research process, in visualising data that arises from it, and in shaping future programme activities.

- **Capturing experiences from small-scale engaged research projects** – We've recently funded 12 small-scale projects that are concluding over summer 2016. These are really diverse projects, anything from engaging young offenders with research to working with refugee children in foster care, from developing immersive art exhibitions to engaging parents in their children's learning and so on.

Each project lead will be producing a report. We need someone to synthesise these reports into case studies / other resources of use to researchers interested in public engagement. In addition, we'd like to capture progress of projects that we funded back in 2013 and 2014, and the unintended impacts that have arisen from these investments.

(3) Communications, Networking and Advocacy

We need help to review and grow our existing advocacy, networking and internal communication channels. An intern would work across three areas, specifically:

- **Developing advocacy** – We have a Public Engagement Network (PEN) of over 350 researchers interested and experienced in public engagement. In reality, PEN acts as little more than a mailing list. We'd like the intern to explore how we might activate this Network, mobilising members to become key advocates for public engagement across the University.
- **Developing engaged researcher case studies** – Over the years, we've worked with a variety of researchers across the University and have some key advocates. We'd like the intern to interview these advocates, designing and developing case studies to inspire those researchers new to public engagement.
- **Website and newsletter** – We'd like the intern to review and refine our existing web presence of over 60 webpages. Is what we're offering what people actually want or need? Is there material that needs to be re-written or side-lined? Is the website structured in a logical way and so on? We also have an occasional newsletter and would like to investigate how best to restructure and revitalise this.

If you would like to discuss these opportunities please contact:

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