

SGSS Academic Placements

Placement Information

Placement Title	C02_01 Underrepresented young people in UK politics and civil society
Project Host contact	Eddie Barnes, Centre Director eddie.barnes@glasgow.ac.uk
Host team (research centre/ research team or professional services team)	John Smith Centre , University of Glasgow
Full time / part time	Part time
In person / remote/ Hybrid	Hybrid
Duration	6 months
To apply	Please submit an application via SGSS Apply

Placement Details

Project Description:

The John Smith Centre is a non-partisan organisation working to open doors to public life and politics for young people. This project will specifically focus on those young people who come from underrepresented backgrounds, i.e. those from socio-economic deprived areas, lower educational attainment, care-experience, women, ethnicity, disability, and others. It will utilise UK Youth Poll data, an annual poll run by the Centre, as well as potentially new polling for this purpose as well as secondary literature available in the academic and public sphere.

Expected outputs:

- A final report providing an overview of the UK's underrepresented young people in political and civic life, to be published in summer/autumn 2026
- A variety of research blog posts for the John Smith Centre Research & Insights platform, highlighting findings from the research (e.g. by demographic group) throughout the time of the internship
- Where time allows, an academic publication off the back of the new polling for this
- Additionally, the intern would be expected to support the Centre's communication and impact work in regard to the project, incl. creating social media content, video content or print material.

Additionally, the intern would support the Centre staff with curating blog posts from external authors for the Centre’s Research & Insights platform.

We would envisage a 6-month part-time placement.

Month 1: working with our senior lecturer and polling teams, plan and write a poll which focusses on under-represented young people.

Month 2-4: Analysis of poll; reading into existing literature; interviews with young people and expert groups.

Month 5-6: report writing, and assisting with publicity and launch of the report.

In addition, as above, we would expect the student to support the JSC staff in sourcing research articles for our blog, and assisting in on-going work: eg; attending events and representing the Centre.

This opportunity offers the following benefits for the student:

The student will:

- Have their name published on a major piece of public research as lead author
- Experience working with the John Smith Centre, a leading public institution within the University of Glasgow
- Develop skills in report writing, data analysis and public presentation.
- Gain new contacts in academia, through commissioning articles for our research blog

Experience and Skills Required:

Essential skills	Desirable skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A basic familiarity with polling and the ability to analyse data • Excellent writing skills • Evidence of interest in political participation and the politics of young people • IT skills and proficiency with social media and video creation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience working in a small team to tight deadlines • Confident speaker with experience of media-facing activity • Knowledge of academic literature on youth participation in politics and public life

Eligibility

Academic placements are open to SGSSS funded students whose ESRC funding began after October 2024 only.

Further Information

Shortlisted applicants may be invited to interview.

For further information, please consult the [Research in Practice Guidance for Students](#). If this does not answer your questions, please contact SGSSS: team@sgsss.ac.uk.