

## **Paid Student Research Opportunity**

**Are you thinking of working during the Easter vacation?**

**Are you looking for part-time work during the summer term?**

IATL is looking for two Student Research Assistants to analyse the results of our survey of student engagement at the University.

Each Research Assistant will be employed for **68 hours' work**, between 4 April and 8 July, at the rate of **£12.47 per hour**.

You will be a second-, third- or fourth-year undergraduate with an interest in the social science of teaching and learning, competent in statistical methods, with experience of using SPSS or similar, and some experience of research.

Further details may be found on the attached pages; informal enquiries may be made to the Project Director, Dr Paul Taylor, [p.c.taylor@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:p.c.taylor@warwick.ac.uk).

To apply, please email a letter of application and a CV to Dr Susan Brock [s.l.brock@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:s.l.brock@warwick.ac.uk) and Dr Catherine Hanley [c.b.hanley@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:c.b.hanley@warwick.ac.uk), the Academic Managers of IATL.

The closing date for applications is **5pm on Monday 28 March**.

Interviews will be held in the afternoon of **Thursday 31 March**.

Successful candidates should be available to start work on **Monday 4 April**.

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

<b>POST TITLE:</b>	Research Assistant (2 posts)
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning
<b>POST RESPONSIBLE TO:</b>	Dr Paul Taylor
<b>SALARY:</b>	£12.47 per hour for 68 hours' work
<b>CLOSING DATE:</b>	5pm on 28 March 2011

### **JOB PURPOSE:**

To undertake data analysis and to conduct an in-depth study of current survey data to explore practical issues with implementing Student Engagement Surveys in the UK and to consider the relationships between student satisfaction and student engagement surveys.

### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Analyse quantitative data gathered in a survey of undergraduate student engagement at the University of Warwick February-March 2011, using SPSS or similar, under the supervision of the Project Director. April 2011 (3 weeks)
2. Gather in-depth feedback through qualitative interviews with focus groups of staff and students to triangulate the conclusions from the quantitative research and probe key findings in greater depth. May 2011 (2 weeks)
3. Triangulate data with other Warwick surveys and comparison with the Reading, AUSSE and NSSE results and with data collected by HEFCE in the National Student Survey, assessing to what extent the data can be used to benchmark UK institutions against those using NSSE / AUSSE. May 2011 (2 weeks)
4. Analyse our data using SPSS in relation to the results of the most recent National Student Survey to demonstrate the correlation, or otherwise, between students' satisfaction and their engagement with their University. June 2011 (4 weeks)
5. Assist in the drafting of a report, making recommendations for improvements to the methodology for implementation at Warwick, Reading and other UK institutions. June 2011 (4 weeks, concurrent with the above)
6. Attend the Higher Education Surveys for Enhancement Conference 2011, Nottingham 19 May, and present research at the HEA Annual conference, Nottingham 5-6 July (conference fees and travel to be paid by IATL).
7. Undertake other project-related duties as and when required by the Project Director.

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

**POST TITLE:** Research Assistant (2 posts)

**DEPARTMENT:** Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning

The Person Specification focuses on the knowledge, skills, experience and qualifications required to undertake the role effectively.

<b>REQUIREMENTS</b> The post holders must be able to demonstrate:	<b>ESSENTIAL (E) or DESIRABLE (D) REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>MEASURED BY:</b> a) Application Form b) Test/Exercise c) Interview d) Presentation
First and second year results at minimum 2:1 level	E	a
Competence in statistics (e.g., SPSS or similar)	E	a, c
Ability and interest in developing research skills in data analysis and reporting	D	a, c
Effective communication (oral and written) skills	E	a, c
Ability to work independently and as part of a team	E	a, c
Competency in IT and familiarity with a computerised environment	E	a, c

## FURTHER PARTICULARS

### The Department

The Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning was established in 2010 to support the University's clear commitment to teaching and the development of innovative programmes and modes of delivery which have a real impact on student experience. The Institute provides academic leadership for teaching and learning innovation and is proactive in capturing enthusiasm and new ideas amongst the academic community, encouraging and supporting colleagues to explore and apply innovative teaching practices and methodologies, generating new ideas within strategic themes to help shape teaching and learning across the University and disseminate, embed and raise the profile of new approaches and successful innovations.

The IATL core team consists of a Director, an Assistant Professor for Curriculum Development, a Teaching Fellow/Practitioner, supported by three professional and administrative posts to manage and support all aspects of the Institute's programme services and infrastructure.

For further information about the Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning, please see our website at <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/iatl>

### The Project

To evaluate its work IATL is benchmarking its impact on a three-year cycle using the Survey of Student Engagement, adapted from the NSSE and AUSSE for the UK context by Dr John Creighton at Reading University. IATL carried out a survey of student engagement in February-March 2011.

The project is funded by the Higher Education Academy to allow IATL to conduct an in-depth study of our current survey data and share both the data and our conclusions with the Higher Education sector.

As Director of the Reinvention Centre, Paul Taylor, was invited to be a panel member at a sector-wide conference on Student Engagement hosted by Universities UK (London, 2009) and a Student Learning and Teaching Network conference on student engagement (Manchester, 2009). He was commissioned, with Danny Wilding, by the QAA to write a "think piece" paper on student engagement (Taylor & Wilding, 2009) and invited to contribute a chapter to an international edited volume on student engagement (forthcoming).

Dr John Creighton, formerly Director of CETL-AURS at Reading University, who will advise on this project, designed, ran and analysed a pilot survey of undergraduates and taught postgraduates at Reading.

There will be close consultation throughout the project with Sean Ruston, Education Officer at Warwick Students' Union.