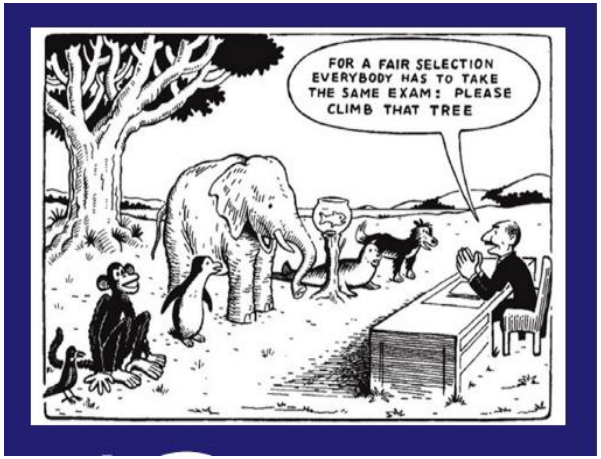
Research England: The Social Mobility Student Research Hub 2.0



Dr Tammy Thiele

Plan for Today

- Intro: who we are and what is the project?
- Who is eligible to be involved?
- How can I get involved?
- What is the commitment needed?
- What support will I get?

Introduction: who we are and why we are doing this

WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

- Members of the Widening Participation (WP) team are collaborating with academics, external partnerships and students from across the University to develop the Social Mobility Student Research Hub
- Our hope is to provide a platform for students from underrepresented backgrounds to develop their own research projects in areas related to WP, inequality, diversity, and inclusion that are of interest to them

A Platform

Bringing students from underrepresented groups together, giving them a 'voice' and 'hopefully inspiring change':

"It's giving students that platform to really speak on issues that matter to them if that makes sense."

"It's nice to see Warwick putting in that time and effort for students who don't have a platform… I've never seen something like this before that gives students from WP groups a voice and an opportunity, a platform as research is so exclusionary, like they're all middle class. I think this is a gateway to improving access to postgrad and it should be like wider than the university, involve all the universities."

Who is eligible to apply?

- The project will fund up to **ten students** from WP backgrounds
- Must be considered **home/UK** students (for fee status)
- A full list of criteria is available on the website, but includes:
- Former eligibility for Free School Meals, coming from areas of high deprivation and/or low levels of participation in higher education, being in receipt of a bursary or other means tested financial support
- Participation in a university Widening Participation programmes, such as Warwick Scholars, Realising Opportunities, Sutton Trust etc.

What is involved?

- Applying and proposing a project idea related widening participation (WP), inequality and/or inclusion.
- Conducting research over approximately six-months
- Developing research skills and experience with support from postgraduate mentors and University staff
- There is a stipend of £1,660 to support you during your research process, and to share your research at the end

What commitment is needed over the six months?

- We anticipate you spending around 70 hours on this project in total, (averaging at about 3 hrs per week, though time spent can vary)
- We would like you to attend a workshop and meet regularly with your mentor
- Your final output could be in a variety of different formats (e.g. report, presentation, podcast, video, poster)
- We would like you to present your work to a wider audience

Mentor Support

- How it works…

Are there any limits on the types of research methods I can use?

- Interviews, focus groups, surveys, literature reviews, secondary research and arts-based methods are all feasible and supported but….
- The types of participants (e.g. if they are vulnerable groups, children, people with disabilities) must be considered and no animals please…
- Go to our website to check out what students did previous years: 2022 Student Projects (warwick.ac.uk)

- Written reports
- Literature reviews
- Podcasts
- Documentary videos
- Posters

Themes

Student Experience/Success

-Navigating Imposter Syndrome Documentary

-Does the School Shape the Student?

-How Does Campus Accomodation affect the student experience

-Warwick on Wheels podcase

Inequalities in Access

-Higher education and future outcomes- the impact of class and ethnicity on the choices made by individuals

--How are contextual offers perceived?

-What impacts do WP programmes have?

-

Graduate Outcomes

-The vicious cycle of no work experience no job

- How can organisations recruit more socially mobile students?

SMSRH

Working-class students: 'there's a constant feeling you don't belong'

Universities need to do more to make working-class students feel welcome at elite universities, writes a student blogger

This article is more than **1 year old**

UK's top universities urged to act on classism and accent prejudice

Investigation finds widespread evidence of students being ridiculed over their backgrounds

Case studies: 'It's had a lasting impact'

Guardian

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People at university are making fun of my working-class roots. Do I try to change or stay true to who I am?

An Exploration of the Relationship Between Physical Spaces and Accommodation on Campus and Student Experience

By: Olivia Collins

Whitefields kitchen

Kitchen showing fridge, toaster, work surface, plentiful cupboard space and windows

As a first year student who was new to the university system and extremely far from home, I stayed in Whitefields accommodation, paying the cheapest rent available (£85 pw), and sharing facilities with 11 other students. I noticed the difference in the facilities provided for different accommodations, having stayed in a small, outdated flat much less impressive than other newer, larger, and more expensive accommodation options. I also encountered many stereotypes of different types of accommodations and different types of students.

(warwick.ac.uk/services/accommodation/studentaccommodation/whitefields, 23/05/2022)

“I wanted to contribute something to the University that I feel is missing by providing an insight into the world of attending university as a disabled person”.

Warwick on Wheels

Eleanor Upton

Additional Opportunities/Ideas

- We have external partnerships as collaborators , some ideas to consider include:
- *Exploring differences in belonging between different types of educational institution (possible collaboration with University College Birmingham)*
- *What is the importance of role models in influencing young people's decision making around attending university?* OR *How cost effective is WP work (possible in collaboration with IntoUniversity)*

The Ethical Review process
Things to Consider:

- Who, Why, When, Where, How? - Who are the participants? Why have they been chosen for this study? When will they be recruited? Where will the participation take place? How will they be recruited?
- Appropriateness of recruitment process to recruit the estimated sample size.
- Clear inclusion / exclusion criteria - Are any participants being unfairly excluded from the study? Is the inclusion/exclusion criteria justified? Are appropriate screening procedures in place?
- Application Form for Research Ethical Approval (warwick.ac.uk)

Try to be SMART

- Specific aims and Measurable objectives ensuring it is Achievable, Realistic and Timebound
  - **Consider ethics, how you will recruit participants, where, when and why you are focusing on specific groups if appropriate**

What support will I get?

You will have a mentor to support you through the process.

They will work with you to develop your idea, bounce ideas off, give you advice and guidance.

You will also be part of a collective: the Social Mobility Research Hub

Project leads will be overseeing the entire project and are there to support you

Key Dates

- Applications are open now until **February 7th** at midnight
- Applicants to be informed of outcomes around the 14th February
- Workshops start end of February (aiming for 28th!), opportunity for mentors and mentees to meet
- Social Mobility Research Hub conference September 2024

What will happen after the project ends?

Final outputs might be written up reports or could take on more creative visual forms such as videos, or podcasts

- **Everyone to contribute findings at the conference**
- **The legacy- presenting at future conferences (ICUR, BCUR & WorldCUR in 2024, contributing to the Social Mobility Observatory**

Feel free to contact us, check out our website and apply:

socialmobilityhub@warwick.ac.uk

Social Mobility Student Research Hub (warwick.ac.uk)

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Questions?