

Student Research Associates

Social Mobility Student Research Hub

The Social Mobility Student Research Hub is a great opportunity to lead your own research project develop valuable transferable skills, try out real life research, enhance your CV and career prospects.

This project will start in January and run for six months. There will be flexible hours, and we anticipate you will need to complete approximately 70 hours.

There is a stipend of £1,000, this will be paid in three installments during the research process.

Please note the full stipend is only provided to those students who complete the research process. Furthermore, students who take part will be expected to attend a face-to-face conference in October. Please take this into account before you sign up.

Role

We are seeking ten undergraduate and postgraduate taught researchers from under-represented backgrounds to propose, plan and then carry out a research project in themes related to widening participation (WP), inequality, diversity and/or inclusion.

Please note that with the exception of Sanctuary Scholars, these WP opportunities are open only to UK students who are classified as 'Home' students for tuition fee purposes and who meet one or more criteria related to their backgrounds. The criteria applicants must meet are listed below, they include: coming from a disadvantaged area or area of low participation in higher education, being a mature student, and/or a student with a disability.

These opportunities are being offered specifically to students from under-represented backgrounds in recognition of the valuable insights, experiences, and perspectives they can bring to research and the competing challenges which can exclude them from taking part.

As an undergraduate, or postgraduate taught researcher, you will work over a period of several months, to carry out a piece of research. This research project could take many forms, but should be related to issues around widening participation (WP), inequality and/or inclusion in the community, education, or similar field.

For this years programme, **priority will be given to students who submit a research proposal aimed at understanding and addressing barriers at The University of the Warwick for the following groups:**

- Mature students (aged over 25)
- Black students
- Students from low socio-economic backgrounds
- Care experienced students
- Students experiencing mental health challenges

As part of the process, you will have access to a Postgraduate Mentor, who will offer advice, guidance and support on a regular basis. They will help supervise your project from the planning phase through to completion.

At the end of the academic year, the University will host a conference, where you will have the opportunity to tell other peers, staff members and the wider community about your work. You can present your work in a range of formats from standard research reports to videos and podcasts. Additional funding is available for student researchers to attend external conferences, events, or related activities.

Your research can be conducted remotely from the university and contact time with your mentor can be face-to-face or online. There will be a requirement for you to attend workshops and other campus-based events as and when required. We anticipate that this role will involve approximately 70 hours of work.

What will you be doing?

Carrying out original, individual and/or collaborative research;

Organising your own time and planning your research;

Working to deadlines as required;

Preparing and delivering your work to a wider audience (which can be in a variety of formats);

Participating in mentee/mentor meetings on a regular basis;

Complying with all health and safety and ethics requirements for research activities;

Attending and supporting the conference at the end of the academic year;.

Attending campus events to help promote the work of the 'Social Mobility Student Research Hub'.

What criteria do you need to meet to take part?

Except for Sanctuary Scholars, applicants must be classed as 'home' students for tuition fee purposes to take part and meet **at least one of the widening participation criteria below:**

- You were eligible for Free School Meals while at secondary school
- You come from a background where your household income is below £35,001
- You come from an area with low progression rates to higher education
- You are in receipt of a Warwick Bursary or other means tested financial support
- You are a student with disabilities - including seen and unseen disabilities, specific learning differences, mental health difficulties, autistic spectrum disorder or any other disabling condition
- You are a mature student who entered higher education over the age of 21
- You have spent time in local authority care, either in a foster home or a group home
- You are an estranged student who is not supported by their parents
- You have caring responsibilities - this could include physical, practical or emotional care

- Neither of your parents attended university and gained a degree (e.g. BA/BSc or equivalent) - excluding if they were/are a mature student