
Sustrans Evaluation Officer TINDSG-008

#socialdatascience #datastudygroup

About the Organisation

[Sustrans](#) is the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle. We connect people and places, create liveable neighbourhoods, transform the school run and deliver a happier, healthier commute. Sustrans works in partnership, bringing people together to find the right solutions. We make the case for walking and cycling by using robust evidence and showing what can be done. We are grounded in communities and believe that grassroots support combined with political leadership drives real change, fast.

From climate change and air pollution, to physical and mental health crises, the pressures on communities across our four nations are growing. There is no silver bullet but the work of Sustrans and our partners provides an essential contribution to tackling these challenges through encouraging and supporting modal change to emissions-free transport options. Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit (RMU) is the leading national centre of excellence for active travel monitoring, evaluation and research with 20 years of experience in providing independent and transparent evidence on walking and cycling.

Our Vision

A society where the way we travel creates healthier places and happier lives for everyone.

Our Mission

We make it easier for people to walk and cycle.

We have two strategic priorities



Our work leads to...

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Role Description and Responsibilities

The intern will have a key role within the What Works team of Sustrans' Research & Monitoring Unit. The intern will report to the Head of Impact and working closely with our team of analysts.

RMU are specialists in designing and implementing approaches to assess what works in encouraging active travel behaviour and the effects of infrastructure interventions. The team designs and manages primary data collection but also have the added benefit of a Sustrans national evidence base of walking and cycling data. Our portfolio ranges from monitoring and evaluation of local projects to nationwide programmes with international significance.

We know that people, individually, benefit from walking and cycling, and society overall benefits when more of us are walking and cycling. But those benefits are not enjoyed equitably. Making it easier for people to walk and cycle leads to healthier places and happier lives, but not currently for everyone. Working closer to our values will mean that we must change our working practices to be truly for everyone rather than building where there is least resistance. We would like this change to be led by data and evidence as much as our ability to engage with different communities.

Our challenge is to bring data together that can help us understand the extent to which our work is equitable – for everyone. The questions we would like to investigate are:

- Whether the projects and infrastructure that we have delivered to date are geographically biased e.g. predominantly reaching affluent white communities
- How we can use data to inform future delivery to be more equitable

The data and information we have available for this include:

- GIS based location data of our projects and infrastructure
- Deprivation and Census data
- User surveys, including opinions from in-person surveys on cycle routes
- Automatic and manual count (e.g. traffic) data from our infrastructure projects

The intern's responsibilities may include:

Analysis:

1. Familiarisation with the datasets Sustrans has available, and the identification and collection of any relevant external datasets.
2. Developing methodology to allow inference on who is likely to have access to Sustrans projects and infrastructure, identifying biases, inequalities and usage patterns. This may include elements of spatial analysis, natural language processing, and time series analysis across heterogeneous datasets.
3. Making recommendations for how we can use data to inform future delivery to make

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our projects more equitable, and considering “what would happen if” scenarios.

4. If required, work with colleagues and learning resources to get up to speed on the use of Arc GIS, R and Power BI (the main analysis tools Sustrans will use for this)
5. Prepare a Data Study Group challenge focused on further developing and expanding the methodologies and analyses scoped during the internship, and represent the organization during the event.

Sharing learning and communication:

6. Work closely with other analysts in the team, and communicate regularly about the project to the Research and Monitoring Unit
7. Ensure that any analysis and dashboard reporting is usable and accessible to colleagues
8. Talk to colleagues across the organisation including, but not exclusively, our colleagues with an Equality, Inclusion and Diversity remit and those working on the National Cycle Network (from engineering to volunteers)
9. Ensure that all material produced complies with the charity’s guidance on branding, tone of voice and key messages, positively contributing towards raising Sustrans’ profile

Expected Outcomes

For current and historic projects:

- key demographics of who lives close to projects and infrastructure
- a summary of key demographic reach by UK nations, regions and local authorities
- changes in key demographic reach over time
- if/where possible a comparison of survey data to Census data to see who we observe as using our projects/infrastructure vs who lives close

For future projects:

- the ability to update the analyses as new projects and infrastructure come online
- approaches for evaluating ‘what would happen if’ scenarios when formulating our projects

Project documentation including for example:

- A dashboard in Arc GIS or Power BI to display the results.
- Technical notes of processes and analysis developed
- Narrative of the task and outcomes to help bring the project to life to colleagues

Supervision and Mentorship

The intern will be part of the What Works team within Sustrans RMU and report to the Head of Impact.

Sustrans is committed to continuous improvement through learning and development. Each individual sets out learning and development through Sustrans’ personal impact and development process. The personal impact and development plans are reviewed regularly, and between meetings there is continuous dialogue between colleagues and their managers with monthly 1-2-1’s.

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Ideal Intern

Sustrans aims to be a truly inclusive employer and welcome applications from people from all parts of the community, in particular from under-represented groups. Sustrans is committed to reducing inequality, valuing diversity and enabling inclusion.

	Application	Interview
Specific experience required		
Working with analysis tools such as R, Power BI and ArcGIS Online, or willingness to learn	✓	✓
Project Management		✓
Skills and Abilities		
Managing and working with large datasets, spatial and non-spatial	✓	✓
Analysing complex datasets and presenting findings	✓	✓
Writing and maintaining metadata for managing datasets		✓
Ability to work flexibly, as part of a team		✓
Excellent communications skills (general, written, verbal)	✓	✓
Simplifying technical documentation for a wide audience	✓	✓
Specific knowledge required		
Understanding of best practice in data analysis and dashboard reporting	✓	✓
An interest in and commitment to Sustrans' vision, mission and values	✓	✓

Internship Logistics

The intern will be able to utilise flexible hybrid working opportunities with the majority of Research and Monitoring Unit colleagues based in Edinburgh, Newcastle, Belfast, London and Bristol. There are office 'hubs' across the UK with colleagues based in Cardiff, Peterborough, Leeds, Nottingham, and Manchester. Our hybrid working policy welcomes the Intern to work in the way that suits them best, this could mean attending one of our main offices on most working days or only visiting an office occasionally.

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The start date will be in September 2022 with a duration of 6 months.

We would welcome interns working full-time or part-time but think candidates working a minimum of 3 days would suite the project best.

The salary is £30000 p/a pro rata.