COMMUNITY RESEARCH HUB
CURRENT VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS
January 2017

The Community Research Hub at Royal Holloway is a new, pilot initiative that provides students (usually postgrads) with opportunities to partner with charities and other external organisations for mutual benefit. For students, benefits might include:

- Applying classroom learning to real-world settings.
- Developing research-related skills.
- Extra-curricular CV content.
- Having exposure to contacts, data and scenarios which can often be used as a basis for publications and further research.
- Earning RH passport points.
- PhD students’ participation in Community Research Hub activities contributes to their Research Development Programme training requirements (five days/yr).
- NB: AHRC-funded PhD students can extend their funding when pursuing development opportunities such as these. Contact Jane.Gawthrope@rhul.ac.uk for more info.

Meanwhile partner organisations meet their research needs, which vary from case to case but might involve:

- Conducting a survey, focus groups, ethnography, needs analysis, etc.
- Analysing data.
- Writing reports with recommendations.
- Conducting desk research and/or literary reviews.

Current opportunities are listed below. Please contact communityresearchhub@rhul.ac.uk for more information and to express your interest.

**URGENT!**

**Creative Junction** is a social enterprise needing a research partner to assist with mapping support into creative careers in Slough, one of the areas receiving Arts Council funding in support of cultural engagement, as well as related good practice from organisations and other parts of the UK.

**Timescale:** January 2017

**Age UK Surrey**

Age UK Surrey is looking for:

1) Postgraduate student(s) – most likely from Management – to research relative benefits/costs of retail opportunities that could provide additional revenue for Age UK Surrey (eg charity shop, online, second-hand furniture, etc.).

**Timescale:** flexible
2) Postgraduate student(s) – most likely from Management – to conduct a costs/benefits analysis of the services Age UK Surrey provides. 
Timescale: flexible

3) Postgraduate student(s) to provide an overview of befriending provision in Surrey in order to identify shortfalls and opportunities for improving joined-up provision. And/or an overview of approaches to tackling social isolation among older people and opportunities for Age UK Surrey to fill gaps. 
Timescale: flexible

4) A postgraduate student – most likely from Computer Science - to help improve the charity’s database’s functioning. 
Timescale: flexible

**Healthwatch Surrey**

Healthwatch Surrey is part of a national network of independent watchdogs that gather users’ perspectives of local health and social care provision. Local authorities have a statutory obligation to provide the core funding for their local Healthwatch. The charity is looking for a postgraduate student to carry out desk-based research, possibly involving interviews with interested parties (including voluntary organisations in Surrey), around the process of public consultations within health and social care. In particular, it wants to focus on recent consultations by Surrey County Council, looking at how the process works, how the public are informed and involved, how responses are dealt with, the process by which the Council is accountable and any transparency around what they do as a result of public response, how the response to a consultation goes through the Council democratic processes, etc. What are the statutory requirements (if any)? Is there any case law that applies or examples of particularly good practice from elsewhere? Do all Councils follow the same process or do they vary? Ultimately - what makes for a good public consultation that genuinely takes public views into account? Legal expertise isn’t necessary – just attention to the basic legal context. 
Timescale: flexible

**Rotary Club, Staines**

Rotary Club Staines is looking for student volunteers to conduct a community needs assessment in the Staines/Egham/Englefield Green area to improve the Club’s understanding of local needs and how it can best meet them within resource limitations. Would potential suit both under- and postgraduates, from any discipline especially Management and other social-science disciplines. 
Timescale: flexible

**FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES**

**What About the Children** is a charity that campaigns for the needs and rights of children age 0-3. Please get in touch (communityresearchhub@rhul.ac.uk) if you'd be interested in working the charity later in the year, once details of their research needs are available.