Data Scientist 3 month MSc Student placement, Government Statistical Service

**Location:** Yorkshire and the Humber, North West, Wales, South East, South West, London

**Job description**

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) is a community for all civil servants working in the collection, production and communication of official statistics.

GSS members come from a range of professions, including statisticians, economists, social researchers and communicators. Within this community the role of Data Science is evolving, working with others to learn and adapt new techniques and continuing to help shape the future direction for policy decision making.

Students will undertake placements within the GSS investigating the use of big data and associated methods and technologies within the production of official statistics with particular focus on hands-on pilot studies and practical applications. Placement research projects will involve data handling, coding, analysis/modelling and reporting of results. Analysis will be undertaken using new ‘big data’ technologies and open source software tools.

As an example the Office for National Statistics (one of the key departments recruiting for data scientists) has to date undertaken the following pilot projects within this field:

- Web scraping price data to feed through to economic statistics
- Use of geo-located Tweets to understand migration
- Smart-meter data to estimate occupancy
- Mobile phone positioning data to model population mobility

**Job Specific requirements**

1. **Professional expertise**
   - Experience in manipulation and analysis of data
   - Knowledge and experience of a range of analytical or statistical techniques

2. **Computing**
   - Programming skills: data extraction, manipulation, analysis and presentation using functional or procedural approaches, in a commonly used language such as C#, F#, Python, Java
   - Experience of scripting and applied use of statistical computing environments such as R, SAS, SPSS, Mathematica or equivalent
   - Experience of big data technologies such as NoSQL systems, Hadoop or equivalent

**Qualifications**
A minimum of a 2.2 degree in a numerate discipline, computer science or IT equivalent which demonstrates core statistical skills

Or

An MSc in a post graduate qualification in one of these subjects Data Science, Mathematics, Statistics, Physics