

ESSEX SUMMER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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February 2026



Updates at a glance!

Q- STEP SCHOLARSHIP

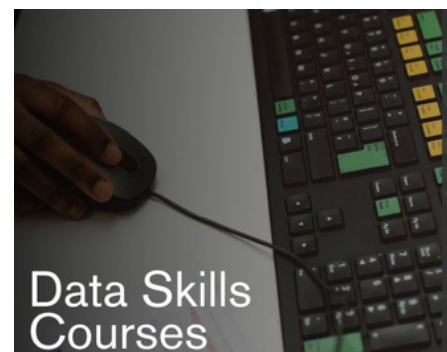
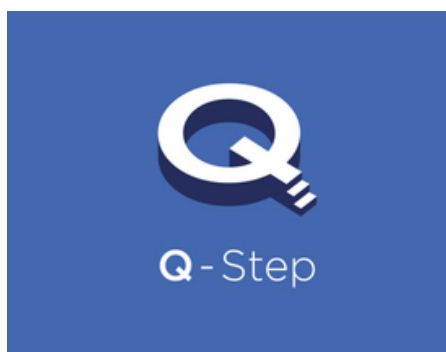
We invite Q-Step undergraduates to apply for a scholarship covering tuition for **one two-week in-person course** at University of Essex, Colchester.

TEACHING ASSISTANT OPPORTUNITIES

We are seeking Teaching Assistants to support summer courses, assisting instructors while developing postgraduate teaching skills and professional recognition opportunities.

ESS DATA SKILLS

We launched the ESS Data Skills Professional Development programme, delivering flexible courses through intensive modules, offered in-person and online to meet workplace needs.





Q-Step

Scholarship for undergraduate students

The Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis (ESS) invites applications for the Q-Step Scholarship from undergraduate students currently enrolled in a Q-Step programme. The scholarship provides a **full tuition waiver** to attend **one in-person two-week course** at the 59th ESS, held at the University of Essex, Colchester.

[Read more](#)

Applications are now open!

How to apply

- Complete the Microsoft Forms application: [ESS 2026 – Q-Step Scholarship](#).

In the form, applicants will be required to:

- List the quantitative methods modules they have completed or are currently undertaking.
- Indicate the marks achieved in these modules.
- Indicate what ESS course they intend to take if awarded the scholarship

2026 Course List

- Explain how attending the ESS would benefit their academic development, particularly in relation to their dissertation or future plans (400 words max.).
- Email a copy of your grade report to essexsummerschoolssdascholarship@essex.ac.uk with the subject line: **Q-Step Scholarship_[your last name]**. The grade report does not need to be official.

Key dates

Application deadline: **3 April 2026, 5pm (BST)**

Notification of decisions: **20 April 2026**

Acceptance of scholarship and ESS complete application: **5 May 2026**

[Hear from Essex Q-Step students who attended Essex Summer School courses](#)

Teaching Assistant Opportunities

The Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis (ESS) invites applications for Teaching Assistants for various courses for the summer period.

Teaching Assistants support Instructors at the Summer School by performing teaching or teaching related duties. These roles provide a development opportunity for postgraduate students to develop their teaching skills in preparation for more senior teaching posts in future and to achieve professional recognition.



Register your interest – applications are now open!

Teaching Assistants will receive supervision and direction from the instructor including feedback and guidance. The instructor will give full background on the module and clear direction on the content to be taught and the preparation necessary.

The main duties of the post are:

- Supporting the teaching of classes to participants, providing them with a thorough knowledge of the subject and enabling them to meet the learning outcomes.
- Preparation time – lesson planning, reading around the subject
- Attending the sessions associated with the course.
- Undertaking related administrative duties relating to the course as and when required.

How to apply

- Complete the Microsoft Forms application: [Essex Summer School 2026 - Teaching Assistant](#)
- Email a copy of your CV, covering letter/email stating which courses that you are interested in supporting to the Essex Summer School Office: essexsummerschoolssda@essex.ac.uk

Key dates

Application deadline: **23 March 2026, 5pm (BST)**

Allocation of courses: **w/c 4 May 2026**

Teaching Assistant - Role Description



ESS Data Skills

The Essex Summer School (ESS) Professional Development programme offers a dynamic series of Data Skills courses designed to equip professionals with the practical tools and confidence to work effectively with data. Building on the success of last year's programme, our courses provide flexible, high-quality training tailored to the needs of today's data-driven workplaces.

Boost Your Skills with ESS Data Skills 2026

This year's programme is structured into course clusters, each comprising of three intensive modules. Each module can be taken individually as part of a bespoke three-module cluster. To support busy schedules, sessions are available both in-person and online, allowing participants to choose the format that best suits their needs.

Course Schedule

May 2026

1. Introduction to R and Basic Data Analysis (taught by Dr Rabia Malik)

Module 1: 5, 6, 7, 8 May, 10:00 – 13:00

Module 2: 12, 13, 14, 15 May, 10:00 – 13:00

Module 3: 19, 20, 21, 22 May, 10:00 – 13:00

2. Data Storytelling: Making Numbers Matter (taught by Dr Allyson Benton)

Module 1: 5, 6, 7, 8 May, 14:00 – 17:00

Module 2: 12, 13, 14, 15 May, 14:00 – 17:00

Module 3: 19, 20, 21, 22 May, 14:00 – 17:00

Coming Soon!

- Data Analysis and Visualisation in R
- Survey Design and Analysis for Policy Analysis
- AI Literacy: Data Analysis with Large Language Models

[Read more](#)