

Psychology & human behaviour

A researcher's perspective



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Research Council: **ESRC**
Placement College: **Waingels College**

About Researchers in Residence (RinR)

Researchers in Residence benefits researchers, young people and teachers via UK-wide school placements across social, physical, life and earth sciences and the humanities subjects.

Researchers:

- Work with some of the most challenging and inquisitive minds
- Renew your enthusiasm for research and develop communication and teaching skills

Schools:

- Access valuable classroom support
- Interact with researchers to motivate, inspire and maximise student learning
- Enhance learning experiences and realise improved grades

What was the aim of your placement?

"The aim was to work with psychology students within the school. During my placement I gave two presentations about my research and psychology as a career, helped out during regular classes and was even asked to participate in a staff/pupil meeting on anti-bullying. This was particularly interesting for me, as my PhD research is on anti-bullying methods in schools."

What did you hope to get out of the placement?

"It (RinR) sounded enjoyable. I work with schools in my research, and had given talks in schools prior to the placement, so I already had an idea of what it would be like and that'd I'd enjoy it. I thought it would be a good way to gain experience of talking to a general audience. As a researcher, it's useful to present your research to different audiences. I also felt

that the scheme was very beneficial for schools, and could encourage students to think about research as a career."

How did you allocate your time to the school?

"I asked to work primarily with students studying psychology and my time was allocated by the staff contacts at the school."

Did you have any apprehensions prior to beginning the placement?

"I was a bit apprehensive about starting at the college as I wasn't entirely sure what kind of work they [the school] were expecting me to cover with the students. I was also worried that the students might feel uncomfortable having a stranger in their class and be reluctant to interact and talk to me."

How was this different from the reality?

"The kids were a lot more accepting of my presence than I had expected. They were very open and inquisitive, asking lots of questions. I was also relieved to find that what I had prepared was appropriate for the work the school wished me to do with the students."

Highlight of the project?

"Meeting students involved in the anti-bullying meeting and finding out how the school and students were working together to revise their anti-bullying policy. It was interesting for me as a researcher in this area to see how a school can go about anti-bullying work. I was very impressed with the approach taken in the school, and the level of cooperation between staff and students."

Best thing about being a Researcher in Residence?

"It was good to be able to give students a realistic impression of who researchers are and what they do. My area of research is very applied, so I feel it gave the students a good example of how psychology can be used in the real world."

What did you learn/get out of the experience?

"Experience of talking about my research in a more accessible way than I would usually. I think the placement also allowed me to practice and work on my interpersonal and

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Life after RinR, what have you been up to since finishing your placement?

"I'm in my final year of research right now so I'm working on finishing my thesis. I hope to continue to work within psychology, either as a researcher or within an applied setting."

Would you recommend RinR to a fellow researcher?

"Yes, it's fun. It's a good opportunity to share your research with a new audience and to gain a completely different perspective on your chosen field."

Eligibility

RinR is open to all PhD and post doctoral researchers funded directly or indirectly by one of the seven UK Research Councils or the Wellcome Trust.

Training

Participating researchers attend a one-day training session covering effective communication and pupil engagement and the do's and don'ts in the classroom. Advice on activities past researchers have used to engage young people is given and you'll find out more about the kind of situations you may encounter during your placement.

How to apply

Complete the online application form at:
researchersinresidence.ac.uk
our RinR co-ordinators will then match you with a suitable school and contact you.

