

Blog: Interning with RACE

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I've never worked in a space where I've not had to minimise myself. I've never worked in a space where I've not had to endure microaggressions. I've literally never worked in such a nurturing, compassionate and refreshing space centred upon the commitment to race equality. Interning with RACE has been one huge lightbulb moment.

I saw the role advertised as part of the Bristol Model, in the last few weeks of my Law LLB. Studying Law and Race, Immigration Law and framing my Final Year Research Project on the injustices suffered by the Windrush Generation lit a fire inside me. Born and raised in Bristol, I was empowered to contribute to tangible change within the race equality space and this role was the perfect opportunity to do so.

The Role, The Team

I applied to intern with RACE because I had never seen a role like it. I'm not sure if that was because I wasn't looking in the right place, or because I simply didn't know that roles like this existed. I was so thrilled that in my interview, I said 'I'm so excited' maybe 50 times.

I worked with RACE as a Research Assistant. With my colleagues, Tobi and Morayo, I worked under the supervision of Angelique, Mina and Saffron and with other incredible members of the team – like Kat who took some time out of her busy schedule to provide us with some social media and communications training. If it's one thing the RACE Team will do, it's ensure you are equipped.

The Project

My primary role was on the Mapping element of the Project with Morayo, though tangential tasks arose incrementally throughout the Summer. It was very flexible and very self-driven. You take on as much as you can and have free reign to get involved in as much as you'd like. For example, whilst thinking through ideas one afternoon, we came up with #BSWhatDoYouThink? – a hashtag BSWN now uses to promote its debate platform. We were invited to live-tweet the RACE Launch Event. We worked on a video on *Being Gen Z* with BSWN. We were encouraged to write submissions, articles, think-pieces. Your ideas are truly valued here.

The Mapping Project was our little baby. In the early stages, it required rudimentary research into publicly available data. Once we had the foundations in place, it was time to start interviewing organisations. Morayo and I met so many incredible people, bodies and networks that do brilliant work. The main objective was to create a physical map, for both Bristol City Council and for RACE. I would never have imagined that I would be attached to a map. But I am. It's our Summer's work – and I think it's fantastic. It's the first of its kind: a map of the race equality space in the South-West. We did that!

I learnt –

I think one of my favourite things about interning with RACE was the insight to a world I didn't know existed. It's easy to see the world in its bleakness, especially with regards to race

equality. It was especially interesting to gain this insight through the lens of data accessibility – something I've never considered before. Discovering this network bound by a passion for making the world a better place is hopeful. It's heart-warming. It's incredibly frustrating, very cyclical, and often infuriating. But that's the nature of race equality work. You're fighting against the grain. But with RACE, you're fighting together.

I grew –

Interning with RACE has massively expanded my skillset. It's nurtured my confidence. From evidence-based analysis, to summarising heaps of qualitative data. I've developed my own interview technique. I can finally navigate Excel beyond colour coding cells. I know that I can contribute to the change I want to see, even if it is just a little.

I've built connections with some of the most incredible, most hard-working, relentless people I've ever met. I hope to have them for a very long time. If you're committed to race equality, intrigued by the dimensions of data accessibility and up with working with the best bunch ever, I can't recommend this internship enough.