TastEd: valuing food and taste education in schools

Lead supervisor: Professor Mark Boylan

Co-supervisor(s): Eleanor Hotham

School/Institute: Sheffield Institute of Education

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Project summary

Taste Education, or TastEd, is an educational charity that aims to change food education in schools. They believe that every child deserves taste education to help them learn to enjoy the foods their body needs and reach their potential in life. The TastEd approach is based on curiosity, fun, and the freedom to choose to try new foods or not. Teachers and other practitioners can access free lesson plans and professional learning based on these principles. You can learn more at https://www.tasteeducation.com/.

Researchers from Sheffield Hallam have been supporting TasteEd to review their resources and training. As a research intern, you would build on this work through a range of methods. This would include analysing data from surveys collected by TastEd and then drawing on this analysis, and the TasteEd model for how their programme works, to design an interview schedule (a guide, including questions to ask). You would then interview a small number of teachers who have participated in training or used TasteEd materials. You would also analyse the data. Interviews can take place online as it is a national programme. You will summarise the findings from your research in a short report that is suitable for sharing with TastEd trustees and potential funders.

This internship would develop your skills in research and evaluation activities, including descriptive analysis of survey data, modelling change processes, qualitative interview data collection and analysis, and report writing. By engaging with TasteEd staff, and supporting them to develop their programme, you would also develop skills for working with clients and ensuring research has benefits for others.

In order to be able to interview teachers during school term time, this internship would start in late May or early June. You could perform the majority of the work remotely but can have office space allocated.

Specific skills and experience required for this project

Please also refer to the advert on our jobs pages for the person specification for these internships

Essential:

- Good written and verbal communication skills
- Basic use of spreadsheets to tabulate data, finding statistics like frequencies and means and present data
- Ability to summarise information thematically

Desirable:

• Knowledge of, or interest in, education and schools

• Experience of conducting interviews, or similar activities such as speaking to different groups of people in a formal setting

Project location

City Campus

Home working may be available

Project delivery

In order to interview teachers and other educational practitioners, the internship would need to begin in late May or early June. It could be completed on either a full or part time basis, with a minimum of 3 days per week.