

## **SADL and Statistics students: we've been learning together!**

The Student Ambassadors for Digital Literacy (SADL) programme was launched in October 2013, following a review of digital and information literacy support at LSE for undergraduate students carried out by LTI and the Library. The [report](#) highlighted the need to better understand the skills and behaviour with regards to finding, managing and using information and using digital tools and resources.

SADL had a number of aims, we wanted to:

- Understand the type of support LSE undergraduates needed and why were not attending the library's information skills workshops
- Better understand differences in LSE's undergraduates so we could work to embed support into the curriculum
- Explore the role of peer support in developing students digital and information literacies.

With that in mind, during the first year of SADL we worked with a qualitative and quantitative department at LSE. We aimed to recruit 10 undergraduates from Statistics and 10 from Social Policy. From the outset it was great to have the Statistics department involved in this project and I was delighted with the number of applications we had from the students. We also had great support from lecturers in the department who helped to promote SADL in Welcome Week and allowed us to come into lectures to do a shout out. Prior to this I knew very little about Stats students at LSE as they were not a group that traditionally had a lot of contact with the Library or LTI. However, I was keen to find out how true the myth of 'digital natives' might be and to understand what LSE undergrads were good at and where they struggled.

Over the course of the three years since we have been running SADL I have got to know many students from the Department of Statistics and they have constantly surprised and impressed me. Three students will be graduating this summer and I first met them three years ago when they joined SADL. If I had made any assumptions about what a Statistics student at LSE might be like, meeting students like Eugene McGeown, Simran Masand, and Djelila Delior has completely changed my ideas. They are highly focused, dedicated students, who have been keen to develop their own digital skills but also to help their fellow students. Many of them are studying on the Actuarial Sciences course and after graduating from SADL in 2013-14, they have acted as [Senior Ambassadors](#) for the past 2 years.

This year we have nine Seniors helping with the programme, seven of whom are from the Statistics department, including Melissa Patel, Chantel Soza, Geetesh Abbott, Katie Mason. They play a vital role in helping us to plan and teach the workshops. They also have led group projects which were presented at the [SADL Celebration](#) in March, which this year explored important questions such as how to improve learning spaces at LSE, how to improve feedback and assessment and how to improve peer support. They say they have got a lot out of being part of SADL, including improved digital literacy skills, team working and leadership skills and experiences such as working alongside staff in a team, that have been

great to include on their CV. But speaking on behalf of the SADL team, which includes staff from LTI and the Library, we have got so much out of working with them. The students have come up with so many fresh ideas, such as Eugene's '[Digital Challenge](#)' where he decided to dispense with pen and paper and use his ipad and stylus for note taking in classes for one term. His blog posts reflecting on this were great, and inspired Djelila to try the same thing. Meanwhile Djelia recently blogged about [how SADL got her hired](#) and some of the skills she learnt in the workshops and from acting as a Senior Ambassador.

I enjoyed attending a [jisc conference](#) on students as 'change agents' with two SADL students last year, and this has inspired the SADL team to submit another paper to a conference focusing on staff / student collaborations. SADL really does feel like a team effort, and while all the students who have been part of the programme are great, Stats students now have a special place in my heart. I hope they've learnt a few things from me, I certainly know I have learnt a lot from them! And there is a lot more to Stats than just numbers, through SADL I have met a fantastic bunch of students who are dedicated, hard-working and self-motivated and lots of fun! When they graduate from LSE and from SADL, I know they will be great ambassadors for digital literacy and I hope they have developed skills that should serve them well in their future lives and careers.