

Mya Scott, Flat 5 Carr-Saunders Hall, 18-24 Fitzroy St, London, W1T 4BN

Ms R Little
Reform
45 Great Peter St
London, SW1P 3LT

27 August 2015

Dear Ms Little

RE: Reform Research Assistant Vacancy

I am a recent graduate of the London School of Economics with an MSc in Public Policy & Administration. I am writing to apply for the research assistant role which I saw advertised on your website.

I am keen to join one of Britain's leading think tanks for public sector reform. I feel that with the 2015 Spending Review on the horizon this is an exciting time to get involved with the organisation to help create better public services within affordable budgets. Having taken courses on welfare reform including 'Welfare and Work in a Comparative Perspective' I found your current work around lessons that can be learnt from welfare to work very interesting. Your recommendation that structural reform should be focussed on disability benefits, housing benefits and tax credits links well to my dissertation on 'Breaking the low pay, no pay cycle' where I completed an extensive 5000 word literature review and meta-analysis of studies that measured the effect of employment retention programmes such as the Employment Retention & Advancement program.

The varied nature of the role involving writing blogs and articles and publishing these on social media greatly appeals due to my previous journalism experience. During my undergraduate degree at the University of Warwick I contributed over 20 articles to The Boar student newspaper as Features Editor. I enjoyed producing well-researched, high quality articles in collaboration with my team of 3 reporters. I led weekly team meetings and delegated tasks according to the strengths of my team. I can tailor my communication to various audiences having followed The Boar's house style. I was able to initiate The Boar's twitter account which now has 10,000 followers. I also developed its web presence by taking a course in Search Engine Optimisation and consequently improved the newspapers reach and visibility by utilising the right keywords on the home page. This resulted in an 'Outstanding Contribution' award from the Warwick Student Union.

In addition to my academic studies and extra-curricular activities, my previous work experience makes me well suited for the research assistant position. Last summer I was an undergraduate research assistant at the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Warwick. I collaborated with a PhD student who was creating a political survey of Kenyan young people to capture their political views. I edited the 30 question survey which the PhD student then took out to the field in Kenya to get completed. I researched the best areas in Kenya to complete the survey that would demonstrate the multiple socioeconomic backgrounds to get a good representative sample for the survey. When the PhD student sent the questionnaire data back to the university I analysed it using SPSS to gauge the level of distrust of politicians amongst the Kenyan youth and compared it to similar data from 2011 to see if the 2013 elections had had an effect on the level of distrust.

To pursue a research career in public policy within the highly regarded environment of Reform would greatly appeal. My academic background and previous experience make me well suited for the role. I am available for an immediate start and I look forward to discussing my application with you in further detail.

Yours sincerely,

Mya Scott