# Job Description – EPSRC DTP Internship: Understanding soft skills in Software Engineering

*“EPSRC’s Vacation Internships scheme gives undergraduate students a taster of what it is like to do research. The students are given practical, first-hand experience of working on and carrying out research in a UK university.”*

Source: [Internships and placements – UKRI](https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/career-and-skills-development/studentships/flexibility-for-funders/internships-and-placements/)

To be eligible for an EPSRC Vacation Internship you **must**:

* be an undergraduate or postgraduate student in a STEM subject area.
* not have completed your degree studies before the planned end of the internship. An internship should generally take place in the summer vacation **before** your final year of study.
* have a right to work in the UK and carry out the placement whilst resident in the UK. We are **not** able to sponsor visas for the internship.

**About the Role**

Computing and IT degrees have been increasing in popularity in the OU and other universities. After graduation, some students find it difficult to gain full time employment. Although graduates may have a good level of technical skills, employers are also seeking for graduates with good soft skills. The aim of this project is identify research that has aimed to develop and understanding of undergraduate soft skills, particularly for students who have studied software engineering.

Key activities will involve finding and reading research reports, learning more about research methods and collaborating with an academic within the School of Computing and Communications to write a systematic review which has the potential to highlight or identify future research directions. The applicant will be required to attend regular meetings to receive guidance and training and to provide regular updates about progress.

The role will develop skills and experience in:

* Understanding research methods which relate to software engineering.
* Knowledge and awareness of databases which share research reports.
* Critical thinking and assessment of research papers and reports.
* Working remotely with others within a dynamic research environment.
* Writing and presentation skills.
* Communication skills.

**About the Unit**

The [School of Computing & Communications](https://www5.open.ac.uk/stem/computing-and-communications/about?nocache=65eb063889d26) brings together a diverse academic community who are passionate about delivering world-leading teaching, research and scholarship in computing and communications. Through these activities, we aim to empower our students, their employers and society in general to develop and use digital technologies to solve the problems of the future.

**Key Responsibilities**

* Performing searches of research databases and critically evaluating results.
* Identifying areas of interest and identifying potentially relevant research terms.
* Writing a systematic literature review whilst working closely with a school academic.

**Skills and experience**

Essential:

* You should be studying for an undergraduate or postgraduate qualification in computing and IT, but applicants studying towards other degree level qualifications will be considered providing they have a demonstrable interest in computing and IT.
* Excellent writing and communication skills.
* Excellent time management, organisation and planning skills.
* Creative problem-solving skills.
* Be personally self-motivated and able to work with minimal direction.
* Access to computer and Internet.
* Microsoft Office package.
* MS Teams.

Desirable:

* Experience and knowledge of domains other than computing, such as social sciences (sociology and psychology).
* Experience and knowledge of software development practices.

If you would like further details about the role before making an application, then please email [stem-research-student-support@open.ac.uk](mailto:stem-research-student-support@open.ac.uk) quoting the reference number and job title.