

Elise Danks, BSc Psychology



Why you got involved?

As a psychology student the opportunity to conduct some meaningful research was exciting and would look great on my CV. Furthermore having a personal interest in the arts and a love of working with children meant that this particular project was exactly the kind of thing I wanted to do.

Main role and activities

My role at Tin Arts was to conduct research into the effectiveness of the Clown Doctors programme. This included designing questionnaires and interviews, observing the Clown Doctors in the hospitals and issuing the questionnaires and interviews then analysing the data and giving feedback to Tin Arts about what I found. The results can now be shown to a number of different people involved with the programme. I also composed a guide to conducting future research so that the research can continue.

Most Enjoyable Aspect

The most enjoyable aspect was definitely visiting the hospitals; the Clown doctors were hilarious and brightened up the hospital wards. I also got meet some wonderful families and staff who were very helpful and told me some touching stories about how the Clown Doctors had affected them.

Most rewarding aspect

The most rewarding aspect of my work experience was completing my final report. I felt very proud to be a part of the Clown Doctors programme and to have contributed something which will hopefully help improve the programme. I am also pleased I left Tin Arts with something they can use to share what their programme does with others.

Fitting it around your degree

TinArts were very flexible about letting me fit the work around my degree; they insisted that I put the project on hold over the exam period and let me extend the deadline for the final report to fit with my studies.

How you have benefitted

I have frequently brought aspects of what I've learnt into my psychology degree and having experience of conducting my own research has given me a great head start for my final research project which I will be undertaking this year. Furthermore having experience of working with children and conducting my own research looks great on my CV. Importantly, the placement helped me decide on the work I would like to continue with after graduation.