

# CAMBRIDGE SOCIAL SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP – INTERNSHIP PROJECT

## General Information

**Title:** Operating Environment Study

**Non-Academic partner:** Places for People Group

**Role/Sector:** Housing and Leisure

**Location:** Cheapside, London

**Placement:** Operating Environment Study

**Duration:** 3 months

**Start date:** Preferably Autumn 2017 but negotiable

**Full or Part time:** Preferably full time but with some flexibility

## Who are you going to work with

Places for People is a leading placemaking, property management and leisure company, active in all four nations of the UK. We currently own or manage 182,725 homes and provide services to over 500,000 people. We have assets of more than £3.6 billion. Our vision is to create aspirational homes and inspirational places. We have a long track record of successful development and a solid reputation for delivering large-scale developments in towns and cities.

We built over 1,500 new homes last year and have plans to build 16,000 more over the coming years. Our approach goes much further than simply building homes. We look at what an area needs to be able to thrive - whether it is new schools, shops, leisure facilities, job opportunities, access to learning and training or specialist support services. In 2016 we were named Residential Company of the Year and then Housebuilder of the Year.

## How do you expect to spend your day

Places for People is a leading placemaking, property management and leisure company, active in all four nations of the UK. We operate a Group structure that consists of twenty operating companies – many of whom are market leaders. We do not pay dividends and we reinvest all our profits back into making and managing great places.

Our work is diverse ranging from the management of over 100 leisure centres, through to the management of over 180,000 private and social rented homes. We are active in all aspects of the property market in the UK with an offer for people at every stage of life from students to retirement living.

As a Group we invest heavily in understanding the world around us. We work with a range of academic and commercial partners to track trends in the economy, demography, social behaviour, regulation as well as a detailed understanding of trends in the markets in which we operate. This analysis is centrally collated and then disseminated across our Group businesses in a variety of formats including policy updates, monthly reports and briefings.

We are looking for an intern to work closely with our Director for Policy, Research and Public Affairs to review, challenge and enhance the sources of evidence we draw on when developing our analysis of the operating environment. You will then update the analysis, based on your recommendations and decide how best to collate, order and store the material. Finally we would like the intern to review our dissemination tools and make recommendations for improvement, including by presenting your work to our senior team.

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The role will involve regular engagement with the Group CEO and senior directors across the businesses we own. There will be an opportunity to travel to meet the directors of the key businesses, and potentially some of our partners, to better understand the opportunities and pressures in our key markets and the data and analysis that may help those leaders to navigate those markets and improve market share.

This is an opportunity to input directly into the strategic positioning of a large and rapidly growing Group of Companies via a focused and defined piece of work.

The role is office based with an opportunity to travel to other parts of the businesses and our partners. You will be in our central London office where the Group CEO and Director, Policy, Research and Public Affairs, are based.

- You will develop and deliver a project plan that aims to review, challenge and enhance the sources of evidence we draw on when developing our analysis of the operating environment.
- You will then update the analysis, based on your recommendations and decide how best to collate, order and store the material. Finally we would like you to review our dissemination tools and make recommendations for improvement.

## The ideal intern's personality and qualifications

The Group works by a set of values – SPIRIT – which describe how we do things. Spirit stands for Support - always there to help customers and colleagues; Positive - a 'can do' attitude; encourages others to achieve; Integrity - always delivers on promises; is open and honest; Respect - treats people fairly and with understanding; Innovative - open to new ideas; not afraid of failure; and Together - believes more can be achieved by working well with others.

We'd expect the candidate to embody these values and bring qualifications in economics and / or a discipline relevant to the markets in which we operate e.g., geography; urban design; planning.

### Essential skills:

The intern will need:

- high level data interpretation and analytical skills
- the ability to develop well-structured, accurate, accessible, and well-presented arguments drawing on complex, often technical and contradictory, evidence sources across a range of different markets.

### Desirable skills:

Relevant commercial and / or academic experience in some of the markets in which we operate (e.g. property management; construction) would be an advantage but is not required.

## What are the benefits of Interning at this project

There are four key benefits to interning with us. First the chance to meet and work with a range of senior executives who have strong entrepreneurial skills and manage successful businesses. Second the chance to work at a strategic level across a large and diverse organisation that includes 20 operating companies. Third a focused project that has business benefit and draws on your academic skills. Fourth a chance to work in a successful values driven business in a vibrant part of the economy.

Apply for this role

If you are interested in applying for this opportunity, please email the completed [application form](#) and a CV to [esrcdtc@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:esrcdtc@admin.cam.ac.uk).

Please note that all applications must be approved by the applicant's PhD supervisor. The application deadline is **September 20 2017**. Results will be announced early October 2017.