

# **The ASSIMILATE project**

## **What is ASSIMILATE?**

ASSIMILATE is a three-year project which looks at how students are assessed at masters degree level in the UK and internationally. Our aim is to collect information about assessment from approximately 50 universities, which can be used to inform the sector.

## **About your role**

The project offers an opportunity to develop your skills by undertaking interviews face-to-face, or via email, telephone or other internet-based audio/video communications.

You will be given guidance in interview techniques, by our core team and briefed today on the diverse assessment methods which you are likely to encounter, and you will later be given contacts at a number of institutions. You will be required to undertake your own research of M-level assessment, using university websites,, specifically into those institutions on your interview list, in order to ensure that you maximise the opportunity to ask the right questions of your interviewees. There will be a standard interview outline produced for you, but you will be able to develop the script through your own research work and in collaboration with your peers.

From the interviews you will be required to produce a news report/article that can be in a format of your choice (text, video, or web based), but which will provide the required information and is usable for the research project.

You can apply for modest funding which will allow you the opportunity to undertake 'live' interviews in the university this year. Next year, highly successful students can apply for up to £250 for an international visit. We would encourage you to seek opportunities to combine external visits to institutions with any other activities that you may have planned in the area, e.g. visiting a distant institution during a volunteering trip or a holiday. There is no obligation to travel overseas and you can undertake only interviews, using IT, if you prefer. Expenses will only be paid upon production of receipts.

At all stages you will be supported by your tutors and staff in the project team with guidance and support if you experience any difficulties.

## **The outputs**

The outputs of the project are case studies, in the form of your news item(and/or don't know). Vignettes (a short description) and a final report produced by the project team, which can be used to inform the higher education sector and to promote discussion to further develop assessment at masters level. There will also be a local, national and international dissemination events.

## **What's in it for you?**

The project offers an opportunity to undertake real life interviews in a safe environment, working with internationally recognised experts in assessment in higher education. This will have you excellent channels to explore the potential of specialise roles, in this case educational correspondent.

You will be able to use your contribution to the project as part of your assessment portfolio and be able to demonstrate engagement with a real world project funded by a leading funding body in higher education in a previously under-researched area.