

Anna Sample

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SUMMARY

An experienced researcher in the political, sociological and charity sectors, now undertaking an MA in Sociology with a view to a long term career in socio-political research.

RELEVANT SKILLS

Research

- Completed a summer placement for the Scottish Green Party as a Research Assistant. Duties included compiling information, gathering quotes from various NGOs on political matters on the party's behalf, and preparing information packs for volunteers to answer the public's questions.
- Worked for Ipsos Mori, one of the world's largest research companies, which gave me a good working knowledge of how research is collected and organised.
- In charge of a data collection project at Aberdeen Cyrenians where I devised a research project to accurately establish levels of actual homelessness in the Aberdeen area.

Problem Solving

- Living and working in Malawi as a volunteer health education worker when I was 18 was helpful in teaching me to problem solve. I worked to tight deadlines analysing health statistics and created effective processes to teach young people about sexual health. This provided me with the opportunity to learn how to respond positively and flexibly to changing situations within a very different cultural environment from my own.

Communication

- Developed excellent communication skills while working as a telephone canvasser and in voluntary fundraising work. This required excellent telephone skills in order to persuade people to take part in surveys.
- Further to this, I have developed writing skills to a high standard over my time at University, in particular, writing reports and essays.

Teamwork

- Worked intensively as part of a team at British Gas providing quality service to customers. This involved all the people in my team working to targets and required a high level of co-operation.
- I learned how to take on responsibility and delegate within the team.

Time Management

- A placement with the Scottish Green Party has taught me how to work to deadlines and organise my work in a sensible way, setting clear objectives and action planning to meet targets.

IT

- Competent in the use of various databases, including Access and Raiser's Edge.
- Extensive experience from my degree in using Microsoft Word, Excel, various internet browsers, SPSS and social media on placement with the Green Party.

EDUCATION

University of Aberdeen **MA (Hons) Sociology (2:1)** **2016 – 2020**

Dissertation: “Voting in General elections : a comparative study of motivations for voting amongst the under 25’s”

Courses included: Sociological Theory, Research Methods, Religion and Society, Social Research Methods, Social Life (I and II) and Thinking Sociologically.

Portobello High School, **2005 – 2010**

Highers: History (**A**), English (**B**), Modern Studies (**B**) and RME (**C**)

WORK EXPERIENCE

June 2019 – Aug 2019 **Researcher** **Scottish Green Party**

- Researching and writing reports designed to influence MSP’s in parliamentary debates.
- Managing social media outputs including Twitter, Facebook and What’s App posts as well as using Raiser’s Edge software for the maintenance of members’ lists.
- Researching environmental issues such as the impact of wind farms and the use of solar energy.

Jan-March 2018 **Market Researcher** **Aberdeen Cyrenians**

- Liaised with agencies such as Aberdeen City Council, Bethany Christian Trust and the Salvation Army to coordinate data regarding homelessness in Aberdeen.
- Collated this information into graph form, wrote reports summarising data and making recommendations designed to minimise rough sleeping amongst the under 25’s.

Feb 2014 – Jan 2018 **Telephone Interviewer** **Ipsos Mori**

- Utilised an excellent telephone manner and computing skills to contact businesses and members of the public on issues such as youth unemployment, the engagement of UK forces in Syria and the legalisation of certain drug categories.
- Developed experience in various methods of collecting data, such as random sampling, probability and non-probability research methods, and quantitative and qualitative research.
- Continued to work part-time after commencing University studies.

Aug 2011 – Feb 2014 **Customer Service Adviser** **British Gas**

- Advised customers about technical matters on their account, updated financial details, made sure billing accounts were up to date and issued refunds.
- Gained commercial understanding of a major fuel supplier within the energy industry.
- Developed skills of active listening and measured responses to ensure that customers’ queries were dealt with in a timely and efficient manner.

Sept 2010 – Jun 2011 **Voluntary Health Worker** **Action Aid (Malawi)**

- Worked with fellow members of Action Aid, Local Government health officials and local schools to promote sexual health amongst 14-18 year olds in the region.
- Gained a great understanding of the lives of ordinary Malawians and their concerns, particularly with respect to societal structures and family life.

HOBBIES/INTERESTS

Sport: Practise Ashtanga Vinyasha Yoga and regularly go running and visit the gym.

Volunteering: Volunteer with Amnesty International writing letters and bringing attention to human rights abuses around the world. I am an active member of two sub groups.

REFERENCES: Available on request.