

I first encountered BSWN through an advertised role by the PLN in April 2021. However, I was nearing the final months of my undergraduate degree and knew I had to prioritise my final assignments. Nevertheless, I expressed my interest and hoped that another opportunity would arise shortly. During my undergraduate degree, I studied several units on race including 'education viewed from the global south' which sparked my interest in race and education. This inspired my undergraduate dissertation exploring the costs of being perceived as a role model for minority educators in Bristol. Nearing the final weeks of my BSc in Education Studies, I came across another opportunity to work with BSWN. I applied immediately.

What intrigued me about BSWN was their close work with Bristol City Councils Commission on Race Equality Team (CoRE), local communities and their mission for a society where racial inequalities are eradicated. My passions, interests and experiences aligned closely with BSWN's missions and values so interning for the organisation was a no brainer. During my internship, I was supervised and supported by Angelique Retief and Chiara Lodi. The BSWN team made me feel supported and welcomed, they were very accommodating to the interns and made sure we got the most out of the internship.

For my assigned projects, I curated a report for CoRE's education task group, assisting to appraise their policy decisions and strategy plans. I researched and collated data to create an in-depth analysis on the current recruitment, retention and progression of teachers from minority ethnic groups in Bristol. This was my first time writing a report in a 'policy brief style', so I was guided by Angelique and received valuable feedback. Simultaneously I collaborated with Chiara on the Everyday Integration Project, working with 30 local community organisations and the University of Bristol to explore civic engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic. I conducted interviews, wrote and analysed transcriptions to create an executive summary report of our findings. Towards the end of my two-month internship, I was lucky enough to have my internship extended for another two months. I continued working on the Everyday Integration Project and started another task for the Research Action Coalition for Race Equality (RACE). RACE is a partnership between BSWN and the University of Bristol to collaborate with academics, communities and policymakers to provide research, data and evidence to those who may not always have access to it. I was responsible for obtaining regional and local quantitative race equality data from public domains for the 'data hub' page of their website which will be launching very soon! Whilst conducting the research for the projects I was assigned to, I learnt a lot about what was happening in Bristol in the racial justice space which I was unaware of prior.

Reflecting on my internship at BSWN, I was supported from the start to the end of my internship. This was the first time I felt comfortable being candid about what I was

enjoyed and what I wanted out of the internship. Aside from our formal tasks, we had opportunities to write blog posts for the website. BSWN wanted us to share our passions and interests with the team while finding a way to work on our skills. I wrote one on international literacy day which is on the BSWN website if you would like a read! Throughout the internship, I enhanced several skills such as researching quantitative and qualitative data, teamwork, communication and organisation. I learnt new skills and formats including blog writing, reporting skills and policy reports. Most significantly, working with BSWN was empowering because I felt a sense of contribution towards the city's agenda - I was a part of something significantly important and impactful. I learnt a lot about the South West and the people who are actively working in Bristol to combat racial issues and disparities. I've met and built connections with people who are extremely passionate about what they do, which definitely rubs off on you. After my internship, I was kindly invited by Angelique to attend CoRE's meeting at the BSWN office and met the amazing CoRE team.

Working with BSWN was an amazing opportunity and I would recommend it to anyone, especially individuals interested in the social sciences and racial justice. You are able to work on several skills, learn new ones and have a perfect balance between working independently and having support when it is required. I also plan to volunteer with BSWN as their work continues to inspire me.