**Nick Partington (POLIS Tripos)**

My time at YouGov was spent embedded with the political team, which is a fairly tightly-knit and autonomous part of the larger company, which makes up a small part of overall revenue but a large amount of the public profile of the company. It was satisfying to feel a useful part of a team handling important projects, rather than just an intern doing work for its own sake.

The team’s time is split between working on internal projects often with longer term partners like newspapers (such as Handelsblatt for German and European polling and The Times for British Political Polling), handling bespoke polling for charities, think tanks, pressure groups, businesses and industry groups, and producing internal data for press release. A great number of projects I worked on have seen national media coverage, which was certainly something I drew a lot of satisfaction from.

For these projects, I had involvement at every stage of the process from enquiry to delivery of results. I worked with clients to draft and edit neutral and non-leading question and answer options (often a difficult process with more intransigent charities and business groups), and subsequently provided cost estimates for the work. The step after this involved scripting the questions up into surveys using a YouGov’s proprietary software, based on html. I was taught how to do this very quickly and by the end of my time, I was scripting much more complex surveys including an experiment for a Cambridge academic and a project for the Cabinet Office.

The SPSS skills I learnt during the statistics and methods paper last year came in very handy when treating and analysing the data we had downloaded from completed surveys, and converting said data into charts to the requests of the client. I was often responsible for using SPSS and plugins to weight data in order that it was demographically representative of the British population, producing accurate results for clients.

In addition to these, I took on a number of ad hoc tasks for members of the Political team, including finding previous YouGov polling and questions on various subjects when they became politically relevant, helping with strategy surrounding the polling of the German Federal Election in September, and building and updating a database on European politics for the team’s use.

The Political team itself was small and welcoming, and I spent time socialising with them outside of the office, as well as during breaks and at lunch. I worked very closely with each member of the team in different projects, but most directly with Adam McDonell and Joe Greenwood, who were particularly helpful and keen for us to learn as much as we could during our time at YouGov, as well as being apologetic for quiet days in the office, which were relatively infrequent. I enjoyed my time a great deal and I am very grateful for the opportunity to have worked there.