

SGSSS PhD Internship

with Restorative Solutions CIC



Host Organisation

Tony Walker

Director of Practice Delivery
Restorative Solutions CIC

Intern

Tania Nascimento

PhD Student
University of Strathclyde



The Host

Restorative Solutions is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company (CIC) committed to supporting frontline practitioners working in the community & public sector by creating and managing innovative programmes, delivering training and services to enable the use of restorative practice.

The Project

The project highlighted the challenges likely to be faced by 3rd sector organisations in developing capacity to deliver restorative services in Scotland. The project ran for 3 months and used Restorative Solutions (RS) as an example of the specific institutional, logistical and cultural issues that such organisations might face in increasing restorative justice approaches. The data were collected from semi-structured interviews with key experts including practitioners, researchers, policy officials, and trainers.

HOW DID YOU FIND THE INTERACTION WITH THE PHD STUDENT IN TERMS OF BUILDING CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY WITHIN YOUR ORGANISATION?

Coming as it did during Covid restrictions it was actually easier to involve Tania with the organisation of RS, allowing interaction with staff across all the contracts we service. Her motivation to be involved attending training courses, workshops and meetings was encouraging. The outcome of the internship was similarly timely with our involvement with the newly formed All Party Parliamentary Group on Restorative Justice. Tania's work was submitted to the group for their consideration and included in the report delivered by them.

WHAT HAVE THE MAIN BENEFITS OF THE INTERNSHIP BEEN FOR YOUR ORGANISATION?

It has been valuable learning on how interns can be introduced and inducted into the organisation. The opportunities it presents for delivery of projects in a timely and academically rigorous way, and supporting RS objectives going forward.

IF YOU COULD GIVE TWO PIECES OF ADVICE TO ORGANISATIONS THINKING TO PARTNER WITH SGSSS TO OFFER INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES?

1. Timing – is the internship coming at the right time for the organisation to add value to its purpose?
2. Real work – is the work to be undertaken additional and relevant to the aims and objectives of the organisation?

WHAT WERE THE MAIN BENEFITS OF THE INTERNSHIP?

Working with a third sector organisation to dissect research into policy recommendations gave me insight into how academic research can be leveraged to create impact. It also opened my eyes to all the various aspects of Restorative Justice and how often it needs people with vision and passion to push through the status quo.

The project was in line with my PhD expertise and contributed to my personal and professional growth by interacting with key experts in the field, including practitioners, researchers, policy officials, and trainers.

IF YOU COULD GIVE THREE PIECES OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE ABOUT TO START AN INTERNSHIP, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

1. Expand your network: use the internship as an opportunity to network and ask those you meet about their thoughts on the industry, their career path and experience. Find out what others are working on and make an effort to understand the working culture.
2. Set goals: knowing your goals/objectives and the host organisation's desired outcomes will allow you to check whether you are making progress.
3. Enjoy the experience.

To find out more about the SGSSS internships scheme and how to apply, visit www.sgsss.ac.uk/internships

