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Recipient of Andrew Pickup Report

Buying Better Dissertation with Placement – Andrew Pickup Award Report

Thanks to the generosity of the Andrew Pickup Award, I was able to further devote myself to the demands of my dissertation research this summer. This summer I secured a placement with The FAIR Shop, an ethical and sustainable fashion boutique that is one of the oldest shops of its kind in the UK. I was interested in working with FAIR due to the access working in their storefront would grant me to a varied customer base. The FAIR Shop's location in the Lanes' shopping district allows for a wide range of different shoppers—day trippers from London, loyal customers of the brand, and tourists from all over western Europe and North America. I worked in the shop in a sales assistant role for eight weeks between June and August 2023.

The funding I received from the award went towards purchasing business cards, securing train fare to London to attend the Just Around the Corner Tradeshow, and to supplement my other expenses while volunteering in the shop. The FAIR Shop did not pay me during my placement, so any leftover funds from the Pickup Award contributed towards food and transportation costs. The business cards were designed as a tool to seamlessly recruit individuals for interviews; they were placed on the front desk of the shop so that I could pass along my information to interested customers.

The ability to order and utilise these business cards helped widen the reach of my subject recruitment process and streamline scheduling interviews with participants. Each business card included a QR code to a web service that enabled potential interview subjects to schedule a time slot with me directly. The award also covered the cost of train fare to attend a critical event in the summer of my research, the Just Around the Corner (JTAC) industry tradeshow in London's East End. As well, the funding made it possible for me to direct my attention more fully to the demands of my research. Thanks to the support of the award, I had no need to seek outside employment while completing my volunteer hours at the shop and conducting my independent research for the dissertation.

I am incredibly grateful for the support afforded by the Andrew Pickup award. The ability to apply for a grant to supplement my research had an indelible impact on the calibre of my dissertation.



