



Isla MacFarlane

Junior Social Researcher

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Sociology graduate from the University of Edinburgh with internship experience at NatCen Social Research. Conducted 8 focus groups, administered a survey to 450 respondents, and coded 32 interview transcripts in NVivo. Skilled in mixed methods research design, SPSS, and policy report writing. Contributed to a published NatCen research briefing on youth employment.

EXPERIENCE

Summer Research Intern, NatCen Social Research, London

Jun 2024 – Aug 2024

12 week internship in the Society and Social Change team, working on a DfE commissioned study of youth transitions into employment.

- Facilitated **8 focus groups** with 6 to 8 participants each (young people aged 18 to 24 not in education, employment, or training)
- Coded **32 interview transcripts** in NVivo using framework analysis, developing a coding frame with 8 thematic categories
 - Cleaned survey data from **1,200 respondents** in SPSS and ran cross-tabulations for the quantitative chapter
 - Contributed findings and 4 data tables to a **published NatCen research briefing**

Research Volunteer, Scottish Government, Communities Analysis Division, Edinburgh

Jan 2024 – May 2024

Volunteered one day per week supporting analysts working on the Scottish Household Survey.

- Helped prepare **15 data tables** and 6 charts for the annual publication using R and Excel
- Proofread and fact checked a **45 page draft chapter** on housing and neighbourhood satisfaction

EDUCATION

BSc (Hons) in Sociology, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh

Sep 2022 – Jun 2025

First Class Honours. Modules include research methods, social stratification, urban sociology, gender studies, and applied social statistics. Dissertation on housing insecurity among private renters in Edinburgh.

SKILLS

NVivo (thematic analysis, framework analysis) • SPSS (cross-tabulations, chi-square, regression) • R (tidyverse, ggplot2) • Qualtrics (survey design & administration) • Focus Group Facilitation • Semi-Structured Interviewing • Framework Analysis & Thematic Coding • Policy Briefing & Report Writing • Microsoft Excel (pivot tables, charts) • Research Ethics & Informed Consent

CERTIFICATIONS

Social Research Association Student Member, Social Research Association

Jan 2024

LANGUAGES

English (native) • Scottish Gaelic (basic)

PROJECTS

Dissertation: Housing Insecurity Among Private Renters in Edinburgh

Oct 2024 – Apr 2025

Mixed methods study of housing insecurity experiences among private renters aged 25 to 40 in Edinburgh.

- Designed and administered a **40 item survey to 450 council area renters** via Qualtrics, achieving a 34% response rate
 - Conducted **15 in-depth interviews** and analysed transcripts using thematic analysis in NVivo
- Identified 5 key themes including affordability anxiety, landlord power imbalances, and impact on mental health
 - Awarded a mark of 76% and selected for the **Edinburgh Sociology Undergraduate Research Showcase**

REFERENCES

Dr. Sarah Pemberton, Research Director, NatCen Social Research, s.pemberton@natcen.ac.uk, +44 7700 900 231

Dr. Callum Macleod, Senior Lecturer in Sociology, University of Edinburgh, c.macleod@ed.ac.uk, +44 7700 900 408

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

Volunteer, Citizens Advice Edinburgh

Sep 2023 – Jun 2025

Trained adviser handling housing and benefits queries. Completed 120 hours of casework, supporting an average of 4 clients per shift.