



Job description

Student Summer internships in primary care Summer 2019

Two internships will be available in the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, for 8 weeks over the Summer 2019. The posts will be full time, 36.5 hours per week, and the rate of pay will be £11.60 per hour.

<http://www.phc.ox.ac.uk/>

Project information

There are currently two projects on offer, and candidates should apply indicating their preference of project. The project topics are as follows:

1. Psychological predictors of weight loss and maintenance

Identifying psychological determinants of weight loss may provide insight into who benefits most from behavioural weight loss programmes and may lead to the development of more effective behavioural strategies to improve programme adherence. This will be a secondary analysis of the data from the DIOGENES randomised controlled trial of different types of diet for weight loss maintenance following successful weight loss. The intern will analyse the data to determine which psychological determinants are associated with long term weight loss and maintenance.

Furthermore, the intern will assist in ongoing clinical trials. We have several ongoing clinical trials including interventions which aim to improve diet and interventions for weight loss and dietary management of disease. The intern will gain first-hand experience of undertaking clinical research in a primary care setting.

This project will lead to a peer-reviewed publication and an abstract for a conference presentation. The project will be led by Dr Dimitrios Koutoukidis

dimitrios.koutoukidis@phc.ox.ac.uk

2. Understanding the context for development and introduction of innovative health technologies – A social science study

In spite of the enormous promise of new biomedical and digital technologies to improve healthcare and the lives of patients in future, many new technology projects are prone to failure. How can this be explained? Our team has developed a new framework to help clinical research teams confronting this question: the **Non-Adoption, Scale-up, Spread, and Sustainability Framework (NASSS)** (Greenhalgh et al 2017). As part of

this summer internship, the successful applicant will have the chance to work in either one or both of the following projects:

Firstly, our interdisciplinary social science team are using NASSS to examine how a leading academic clinical research and engineering team are developing and bringing to market new biodegradable surgical devices. Joint and tendon repairs are extremely common operations in the NHS, yet some procedures such as rotator cuff repair have up to 40% failure rates within 12 months of surgery. It is hoped that development of new biodegradable implant products can assist in the regeneration of tissue needed to repair joints and deliver better outcomes for patients receiving such procedures in the NHS. Whilst these products are innovative and highly promising, this novelty creates a number of challenges for research teams, ranging from generation of clinical evidence, to navigating complex regulatory and business environments, and confronting wider societal concerns about the safety of surgical implant technologies.

The second project in which the student will have the opportunity to collaborate looks at the challenges of digitising pathology in NHS hospitals. Currently most pathology work involves analysis of cells and tissues collected and stored in glass files. This creates a number of practical challenges around storing, transporting and accessing samples for pathological analysis in the hospital lab, the clinic and in research. By digitising cellular images, it is hoped that pathology work will be made more efficient and that ultimately this will lead to cost savings and earlier and more accurate diagnosis and treatment for patients. However, the NHS has a mixed track record in delivering electronic health systems at scale. This project uses NASSS to identify and unpack some of the opportunities, setbacks and challenges efforts to digitise NHS pathology will likely face over the next few years.

Role: The student will assist in the collection and analysis of qualitative research data and help with assembling relevant literature on the challenges of surgical trials and digital pathology. This is an ideal opportunity for a student wanting to develop research skills in literature reviewing and qualitative research, and with curiosity to learn about the opportunities and challenges for introducing new technologies into the NHS.

Day-to-day supervision will be given by Dr. Alex Rushforth alexander.rushforth@phc.ox.ac.uk with further input from professor Trish Greenhalgh.

Purpose of the post

This Primary Care Student Internship has been funded by the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences to support the research training and development of a medical student, MSc or PhD student or allied health professional, for a period of 2 months over the summer vacation.

The Intern will:

- Receive appropriate training;
- Develop a translational research project (see the job description for details);
- Prepare the work for potential presentation +/- publication in an academic journal.

Daily working relationships will be with the team leads and members of their teams.

Main Duties

This is an exciting opportunity for a student or early career health professional to undertake an internship and obtain a research grounding in world-leading academic departments. The main duties of the posts will involve working up and then delivering the research projects. On a day to day basis the work will be variable and will depend on the project chosen. The successful candidate will be an integral member of the multidisciplinary research team and will thus benefit from exposure to a range of research techniques. For exceptional candidates the work may provide a grounding for future applications for clinical academic posts or fellowships.

Selection criteria

Candidates will be assessed against the selection criteria. You must provide a supporting statement from a personal tutor or equivalent, and a short a covering letter (one page) describing how you meet the selection criteria (below) and what you hope to gain from the internship. Candidates will be expected to give examples of relevant experience which need not be work experience, but can be experience from other areas of life.

Selection Criteria

Essential

Enrolled on an undergraduate medical course with access to a long vacation (i.e. usually 1st /2nd /3rd year). Applications will also be considered from suitably qualified students moving from a relevant MSc or PhD programme with a vacation in between OR an established health professional (e.g. midwife, neonatal nurse) considering a research career and able to take 8 weeks leave of absence from their clinical post.

Interest and enthusiasm for primary care

Ability to collaborate with team members from multiple scientific disciplines.

High standard of written English communication.

Desirable

Previous experience of health research

How to apply

Please apply via email to hr@phc.ox.ac.uk with the subject heading '**Primary Care Medical Student Internship application**', and attach the following documents:

- CV
- Covering letter explaining how you meet the criteria for the post and what you hope to gain from it.
- Supporting statement from personal tutor or equivalent

Please state clearly which project you prefer and whether you are also interested in any of the others.

Closing date for applications is midday on 6th May 2019 and interviews will be held on 22nd May 2019