

**Name & email supervisor(s):**

Aseel Mahmoud / Jane Smith

**Length and dates of internship:**

Flexible, up to 4 weeks full time equivalent in total, from June to September 2024

**Host department:**

Exeter Collaboration for Academic Primary Care, University of Exeter

**How will the internship be conducted:**

- In person at the university
- Virtual/ from home
- Both are possible, depending on preference of student

**Title internship project:**

Exploring the role of pharmacists in the care of people with asthma and other long-term conditions managed in primary care

**Summary of the internship project:** *(max 250 words, can include hyperlinks to further information)*

In the UK, pharmacists working in community pharmacies and GP practices are increasingly involved in the care of patients with common long-term conditions, such as asthma. For example, they provide advice and education about medications, review medications, and growing numbers even prescribe common medications. Some also provide or refer people for services to reduce future health problems (e.g. vaccinations, smoking cessation, weight management).

Expanded roles for pharmacists are better established in some countries than others. We are undertaking work to explore and extend international research on how pharmacists support management of long-term conditions. One aspect has involved conducting an “umbrella review” of existing reviews drawing together studies on the responsibilities and impacts of additional healthcare workers, including pharmacists, in GP practices. A second strand is exploring the role of pharmacists in asthma care, and recently whether existing approaches in the UK might be applied in Gulf countries (e.g. Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar). For the latter, following a scoping review that identified a lack of research on pharmacist-led initiatives for asthma in the region, we are undertaking a survey of pharmacists in selected Gulf countries to explore factors related to their existing and potential involvement in asthma care.

Depending on the interest, skills and availability of any successful applicant, this internship could support write up of the pharmacist-focussed part of the umbrella review, analysis and/or write up of survey findings, and/or exploration of further literature to identify areas/conditions where future research on involvement of pharmacists may be beneficial.

**Learning objectives:**

- To develop an understanding of the expanding role of pharmacists in primary health care and gain an overview of research on this topic.

- To gain insight into systematic methods for conducting reviews of existing research evidence (e.g. umbrella reviews, systematic reviews, scoping reviews).
- To learn about and undertake analysis of basic quantitative and/or qualitative data, and/or apply visually engaging ways of presenting findings from such data.
- To help write up findings for publication and dissemination to wider audiences.

**Any further information:**

This internship will provide opportunities to link to and hear about the careers of pharmacists involved in academic research and join pharmacist research networks and events.