Name & email supervisor(s): **Supervisor 1:** Dr Blanca de Dios Perez **Supervisor 2:** Professor Kate Radford
Length and dates of internship: 8 weeks, approximately between August and September 2024
Host department: Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, University of Nottingham
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: Towards identifying the most relevant vocational rehabilitation (VR) outcomes for people with multiple sclerosis (MS).
Summary of the internship project: *(max 250 words, can include hyperlinks to further information)* This project aims to conduct a nominal group technique (NGT) with people with multiple sclerosis (MS) to explore the most relevant outcomes for a vocational rehabilitation (VR) intervention. *Methods* The nominal group technique involves five key stages: 1. Introduction and explanation: To explain the rationale and aims of the session. 2. Silent generation of ideas: Stakeholders will be given 10 minutes to think on their own about key outcomes that should be measured for the future intervention. 3. Sharing ideas: Stakeholders will be asked to share the outcomes they selected, which will be included on an online whiteboard for discussion. 4. Group discussion/clarifying: Stakeholders will be asked to explain and clarify their selected outcomes. 5. Voting and ranking: The group will be asked to prioritise the outcomes identified and rank them according to relevance. *Stakeholder Identification* Fifteen stakeholders with MS will be recruited if they have a diagnosis of MS, speak English, are in paid employment, or left the workforce within the last 12 months because of MS or the nature of the role. Participants will be recruited using social media (e.g., Twitter), the Nottingham MS Group, and contact lists of previous research participants. A recruitment matrix will be developed with a patient and public representative to improve diversity rates. *Data Analysis*

The group discussion will be audio-recorded using Microsoft Teams and transcribed verbatim. The data will be analysed using thematic analysis, reporting on the key outcomes selected and the rationale behind the relevance of the outcomes.

Learning objectives:

The person taking on the internship will develop an understanding of research methodologies such as conducting a nominal group technique (NGT) and analysing qualitative data.

A key learning objective is developing skills in Patient and Public Involvement (PPI), by designing the questions for the NGT with PPI representatives and including their views from the inception of the project. The importance of diversity in research will be addressed by developing a research matrix and developing an understanding of why this is relevant to research.

The intern will also learn about MS, which is the most common long-term neurological condition affecting young adults in the UK, the challenges that people with MS experience at work, and how vocational rehabilitation can enable people with complex health conditions to remain or return to work.

These skills are relevant for primary care research and the findings will be included as part of a larger grant application.

Any further information: The lead applicant is an Early Career Researcher who has been awarded a research fellowship (Early Career Fellowship, MS Society), and will be involved in the day-to-day supervision of the intern.

Prof. Radford, is the secondary supervisor and will also engage with the intern to provide them with a broader experience of rehabilitation research, primary care research, and how to pursue a clinical academic career.