

Keele SPCR internship projects 2025

Name & email supervisor(s): Supervisor: Joanna Simkins j.m.simkins1@keele.ac.uk Study team members: Joanna Simkins, Melanie Holden, Martin Thomas, Clare Jinks
Length and dates of internship: 4 weeks, flexible start date (N.B not from the 8 th May – 20 th June)
Host department: School of Medicine, Keele University
How will the internship be conducted: <input type="checkbox"/> In person at the university <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual/ from home <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both are possible, depending on preference of student
Title internship project: Reporting and conduct of environmental scans in musculoskeletal research: a scoping review
Summary of the internship project: <i>(max 250 words, can include hyperlinks to further information)</i> Background: The environmental scan methodology originates from business research and is becoming used more frequently in musculoskeletal research. It is a relatively new approach for synthesising information, and for which a definitive procedure is not established. To inform future guidance, it will first be useful to know how previous studies have used the methodology in musculoskeletal research. Aim: To identify how environmental scan research is being conducted and described in the field of musculoskeletal health research. Methods: A scoping review will be conducted following JBI guidance. Three electronic searches will be searched (MEDLINE via ProQuest, Web of Science via Clarivate and CINAHL via EBSCO) to identify any primary research study that has used an environmental scan methodology. For feasibility, the search will be limited to English language studies only. There will be no limitation to year of publication. Two reviewers will screen titles and abstracts of located sources, and to screen full-text articles. A third review will resolve any differences. The reference lists of all identified included full-text papers will be examined for any further papers to be included in the review. A data extraction form will be used to extract relevant data. The characteristics and range of methods used in the identified environmental scans will be mapped out and presented in narrative and tabular form. The PRISMA-ScR extension will be used to ensure consistent reporting. Outcomes: The study will be presented at Keele University, submitted to a UK-based scientific conference and written up for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.
Learning objectives: Undertaking this project will enable the candidate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase their knowledge and understanding about musculoskeletal research• Increase their knowledge and understanding about scoping reviews and environmental scans

- Increase their analytical skills (including narrative synthesis)
- Improve their presentation skills
- Improve their manuscript writing skills (with the aim of writing up the project for submission to a peer reviewed journal)
- Have increased understanding about possible career trajectories for clinical academics

Any further information:

An approximate timetable for the project will be as follows:

Week 1: Meet the team, background reading, finalise the review protocol, commence research methods training programme

Week 2: Undertake the search, retrieve relevant clinical guidelines for inclusion, commence data extraction

Week 3: Extract data, synthesise findings

Week 4: Complete data synthesis, present findings within the Centre for Musculoskeletal Health Research at Keele University, plan future study outputs