

Oxford SPCR internship projects 2025

Name & email supervisor(s): Charlotte Albury (charlotte.albury@phc.ox.ac.uk) and Rachael Drewery (Rachael.drewery@phc.ox.ac.uk)
Length and dates of internship: Up to four weeks, with dates flexibly as agreed with the student intern (to foster inclusivity from the outset).
Host department: Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford
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: Exploring relationships between clinical communication and health behaviour change
Summary of the internship project: <i>(max 250 words, can include hyperlinks to further information)</i> We welcome an intern to work across our exciting programme of work focussed on exploring relationships between clinical communication and health behaviour change. How healthcare professionals communicate can significantly impact patient outcomes. In this project we invite an intern to work with our team to analyse recordings of real consultations between healthcare professionals and patients, and link these to patient outcome data. Focussing on conversations about health behaviour change (eg diet, and physical activity) they will work with our team to explore which aspects of communication might support specific outcomes. This will include contributing to our NIHR funded project 'Understanding the role of Healthy Weight Coaches in the weight management system': https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/NIHR205227 And THIS Institute Funded 'Understanding and improving primary care prevention advice for people who experience multiple long-term conditions and socioeconomic deprivation": https://www.thisinstitute.cam.ac.uk/about/people/dr-charlotte-albury/
Personal Development and Training <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We would like to support our intern to conduct high-quality research which they can submit to an academic conference, communicating the work they have done. We expect

this will result in a poster or oral presentation. We have an excellent track record in supporting students to do this successfully.

- Should the student intern which to do so we will also support them to write a blog for academic or lay audiences communicating their research (for example: <https://rolsi.net/2023/11/09/guest-blog-an-undergraduate-enjoys-a-ca-internship/>).
- The student intern will be actively supported to develop skills to carry out systematic reviews and qualitative research in the context of health behaviours, through attendance at formal training and training within our team.

Learning objectives:

- Develop knowledge of the role of communication in influencing behaviour change
- Develop and implement skills in qualitative data analysis and interpretation
- Contribute to systematic reviews
- Undertake personal development and training specifically related to research skills and multi-disciplinary team working
- Practice skills in writing conference abstracts and creating academic posters, and/or blogs
- Engage with the departmental primary care behaviour change research community

We will work with the intern to consider their own objectives and motivations, seeking out relevant opportunities across our available projects for them to meet their own goals.

Any further information:

We are an inclusive and supportive team, keen to support an intern to develop new skills and inspire them to consider a career in academic primary care research. We have hosted seven diverse internships over the last few years, and are incredibly proud of what each of them have achieved. We also receive consistently positive feedback from interns about their experience working with us:

“I've learned so much in those four weeks, and it's because you've been incredibly generous in giving me opportunities like the qualitative methods class, the systematic reviews - and not to mention the blogs and upcoming workshop! My perspective on research - how it can be performed, what it can do, and my own interests within it - has completely shifted and broadened, and I feel much more informed and comfortable about the process and details of a career in research....it's quite difficult to put into words everything I feel like I've gained - just because there is so much I could say! Thank you again for letting me spend a month at the Team; it's been such a privilege.”

We are happy to provide details of previous interns who can be contacted to find out their perspectives on doing internships in our team.