

QMUL SPCR internship projects 2025

Name & email supervisor(s):

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Length and dates of internship:

9th June 2025 to 12th September 2025 (14 weeks)

10 hours/week

Host department:

Centre for Primary Care and Public Health, Queen Mary University of London

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:

A Comprehensive Literature Review of Socio-Ethical Issues of Population Panel Genetic Testing

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

PROTECT-C (<https://www.protect-c.co.uk>) is an intervention trial designed to test a population genetic testing approach - offering panel genetic testing to the public to assess whether they carry a pathogenic variant that increases their risk of breast, ovary, bowel, and/or womb cancer.

As part of the trial, we plan to conduct a comprehensive literature review to evaluate socio-ethical issues associated with this population-based approach. This review will critically appraise a wide range of (inter)national guidelines, policy, legal frameworks and literature to generate normative claims and arguments regarding the provision of panel genetic testing to the general population. The normative data will serve as a solid foundation to inform the integration of panel genetic testing into various healthcare settings.

Interns will be involved in the literature review project as second coders. Their responsibilities will include title and abstract screening, full-text screening, and results extraction. Interns will receive training in conducting rigorous systematic reviews. They are expected to read the protocol and attend training sessions to ensure consistency in study interpretation at each stage of screening. Before working independently, they will pilot-screen studies and compare results with the primary coder to identify discrepancies. Regular meetings will be held to discuss disagreements and refine the process. Our goal is to achieve a reliability rate of at least 80% at each stage of screening.

Learning objectives:

1. Develop a solid understanding of the principles and methodologies in systematic reviews and evidence synthesis
2. Learn the process of screening, selecting, and extracting data from peer-reviewed literature
3. Develop the ability to assess the quality of the literature following the review protocol guidance
4. Collaborate and communicate effectively within a multi-disciplinary team

Any further information:

We would like to apply for two internship placements, with each of them working on the literature review for 140 hours.