

Southampton SPCR internship projects 2025

Name & email supervisor(s): Dr Jane Vennik. J.vennik@soton.ac.uk Professor Geraldine Leydon g.m.leydon@soton.ac.uk
Length and dates of internship: 4 weeks between 1 st June – 4 th July or 21 st July to 31 st August. Part time will be considered.
Host department: Primary Care, Population Sciences and Medical Education, University of Southampton
How will the internship be conducted: <input checked="" 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: Enhancing health checks for people with learning disabilities in primary care.
Summary of the internship project: <i>(max 250 words, can include hyperlinks to further information)</i> The Supporter-HC study aims to explore how carers support people with learning disabilities to attend their annual health check, understand and implement their health plan, and manage their health afterwards. Regular health checks are important because they can identify and monitor health problems, and promote health and wellbeing. However, health checks vary between GP practices, and people with learning disabilities report mixed experiences. Also, carers can feel unprepared and be unsure about their role. The Supporter-HC study involves qualitative telephone interviews with a wide range of family carers, supporters and professionals who are supporting people in their homes and community settings. It is part of a larger project which also includes the voices of people with learning disabilities and primary healthcare professionals to improve health checks and health plans in primary care. The internship will involve working with the research team to assist with collection and analysis of the interview data, and contributing to the study report. Training and supervision will be provided for qualitative methods and using computer software for data analysis. There will be an opportunity to present the findings to our patient and public involvement group.
Learning objectives: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To learn about annual health checks for people with learning disabilities through engaging with the literature, and discussions with the research team and our public contributors.2. To learn about qualitative research methods through online training, discussions, and hands-on experience.3. To analyse qualitative interview data facilitated by NVIVO qualitative analysis software.

4. To prepare research findings for presentation to a lay audience (e.g. written report/powerpoint/infographic)

Any further information:

Hybrid working is possible but some in-person working at the University in Southampton will be required.