

Internships

Guidance for Applicants

The Applied Research Collaboration

The NIHR Applied Research Collaboration in Greater Manchester (ARC-GM) is a collaboration between the University of Manchester and the health and care system of Greater Manchester. Our work is directly informed by the needs of both this system and the local population. Our overarching goal is to improve the health of the GM population and the quality and sustainability of the health and social care they receive. We will achieve this by co-producing excellent research in areas prioritised by the system and by enhancing its impact through supported implementation into policy and practice. Our research themes are; Digital Health, Mental Health, Healthy Ageing, Organising Care, Economic Sustainability, Evaluation and Implementation Science. More information on our themes and priority areas can be found on our website at:

<https://www.arc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/>

Overview

The Applied Research Collaboration Greater Manchester (ARC-GM) supports up to 10 internships per year. Each internship is supervised aligned to one of our research themes. There are also opportunities to work across these themes to broaden the range of experience.

Research internships will comprise research 'tasters' of 30 days (225 hours) duration, used flexibly over 4-9 months. Internships will start in either September and January each year.

The learning objectives for the internships are to:

- Enhance research knowledge and skills in the intern's field of practice and/or research interests
- Gain first hand, supervised experience of applied health research
- Explore opportunities for postgraduate study i.e. an MClinRes or PhD

Delivery of the internships during the COVID-19 pandemic will inevitably mean there will need to be modifications made. Mainly that supervision sessions and meetings are likely to be provided virtually, with online teaching and the full range of research experience during the internship may be restricted because of this.

Structure

The structure of the internship is flexible and tailored to the needs of each intern, but with four key core components:

1) Support from the capacity building theme

At the start of the internships the capacity building theme will provide an overview of the ARC and capacity building theme and ensure that each intern is aware of all of the resources available to them (including MClinRes course units - see resources below) and their training budget. They will also provide a workbook with induction information, guidance, opportunities for learning reflection, and for recording supervision meetings

Throughout the internship, the capacity building theme will be the interns' point of contact if there are any issues or training budget requests.

2) Supervision and support from the research theme

The intern will be allocated a supervisor from the theme which the internship is aligned to. The supervisor will provide an overview of the theme, discuss the intern's research interests/ideas, discuss learning needs, discuss, plan and timetable the intern's research activity*

In addition, the supervisor will be responsible for organising:

1. a minimum of 4 one to one meetings with the supervisor, at key points
2. access to project/theme level meetings as required
3. opportunities to (i) shadow ARC researchers within the theme and (ii) facilitate links to other themes

3) Individualised research activity*

Below is a list of research activities that previous interns have done successfully before. One of these activities below may be suitable for an intern to undertake within the duration of the internship depending on their interests/learning needs and the work required within the theme. This list is not exhaustive but provides some examples of the research activity that an intern might undertake:

- Develop their own research idea into clearly defined objectives and a proposal for a fellowship or other funding
- Evaluate a service development through a review of the literature, conducting a small scale evaluation, and a proposal for change in practice/business plan
- Conduct a literature search and evidence synthesis

- Undertake data extraction and risk of bias assessment for on-going systematic reviews
- Contribute to an element of a project within the theme e.g. literature review; protocol development, data collection/ analysis
- Contribute to plain language summaries, research reports, newsletter articles or website project overviews
- Build a network of research contacts in their field for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration

4) Learning and next steps

At the end of the internship the intern will present (orally, 15 minutes with a supporting poster) a summary of learning from the internship, and next steps to their theme supervisor and a member of the capacity building theme.

Resources

Each intern will be given access to the Masters level units for independent study (with optional accreditation for a 15 credit unit) from one of the following courses:

- [MClin Res Clinical Research Masters level units](#) (Research Design, Managing Research in Clinical Settings, Quantitative Design and Analysis, Qualitative Design and Analysis, Statistics, Critical Appraisal & Evidence Synthesis)
- [MSc Social Research Methods and Statistics Modules](#) for example Survey Research Methods or Methodology and Research Design

The intern will also have access to:

- NIHR Learn as an NIHR Academy member
- An individual training budget of up to £1,000
- ARC Capacity Building resources
- The Greater Manchester National Institute for Health Research Training Network

Recruitment

Interns will be recruited for a start date in either September or January to be in line with when the Master's course starts.

Recruitment will focus on Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals, Social Care and Public Health professionals who are non-researchers at AfC band 6 upwards (or equivalent) . This internship programme will run from September 2020 to January 2024.

Shortlisting and interview criteria:

Shortlisting and awards will be made using the criteria below. Preference will be given to applicants who can demonstrate more of the following:

- An understanding of the role of applied health and social care research in their current practice
- Willingness to undertake research modules /qualifications
- Evidence of previous study at minimum of BA/ BSc level or equivalent
- Interest in pursuing a clinical academic research career
- Alignment of their research interest with a theme(s) in the ARC
- Support within place of work/practice setting to undertake the internship