

South West Integrated Clinical Academic (ICA) Programme

HEE-NIHR Internship (2021/22)

Guidance notes

For further information contact: ICA.HEESW@uwe.ac.uk

Introduction

Health Education England (HEE) and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) have established an overarching Integrated Clinical Academic (ICA) Programme for healthcare professionals, other than medics and dentists. This programme is intended to increase research capacity to improve health and healthcare, by developing people with the potential and aspiration to become leading clinical academics and independent researchers in the future.

This year (2021/20) we have received national funding to support a number of internships in the South West. These awards support individuals who are early in their clinical academic career and are thinking about doing postgraduate academic study at master's level and beyond. The internship offers an introduction to aspects of clinical research through gaining research experience by observing/visiting/working in a research environment and undertaking study in research in preparation for applying for a Pre-doctoral Clinical Academic Fellowship (PCAF).

It is important for successful interns to have support from their line manager. The objectives of the internship and future clinical academic aspirations should align with team/service clinical priorities and needs.

Useful link:

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/hee-nihr-integrated-clinical-academic-programme.htm>

Eligibility

The internships are open to Allied Health Professionals, Chiropractors, Non-medical Public Health Speciality Trainees, Nurses, Midwives, Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians, Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians, Practitioner Psychologists, Healthcare Scientists and wider Dental Team Professions. (You can check eligible professions via the following webpage: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/heenih-ica-programme-eligible-professions-and-regulators/12204>.) The internships are available to those who have received no formal long term training in research. If, as part of your registration requirements, you had to complete a diploma or masters, you are still eligible to apply.

To be eligible for one of these awards you will need to provide evidence that you have the following:

- Current registration with a relevant regulatory body as per ICA programme requirements (<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/heenih-ica-programme-eligible-professions-and-regulators/12204>)

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- Applicants must be employed by a provider of health and/or care services that is providing at least 50% of its services free at the point of delivery. The applicant must also be spending at least 50% of their current role delivering health and/or care services which are free at the point of delivery.
- The health and/or care services are provided within the following STPs: Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, Bath, Swindon and Wiltshire, and Gloucestershire.
- One (1) year's post-registration practice experience
- Support from your employer to undertake the internship
- A keen interest and clear suitability for a research focused clinical academic career
- Mentorship from a named clinical academic supervisor (identified by you)
- Access to learning about research - this could include attending an academic module(s) or a short course(s) at a master's degree level or equivalent in particular aspects of research methods or data analysis (your organisation's Education Lead will be able to advise you)
- The opportunity to develop links with an existing clinical research team (identified by you).

If you have applied previously and been unsuccessful, you are welcome to apply again. You are expected to take up the internship between 1st September 2021 and 31st March 2022 and to complete the internship within 6 months. Requests for adjustments will be considered on an individual basis.

The elements of the programme are designed to help you to progress a research idea/project and develop research support network. You will have the opportunity to develop a bespoke development programme tailored to suit your specific needs and aspirations with your identified clinical academic supervisor. In addition, you will be able to participate in other activities which may include working with current researchers; visiting clinical research facilities, and/or attending research presentations and seminars.

How much is the award and how can the funding be used?

Each successful applicant will be awarded up to £10,000 to cover costs including salary backfill, incidental costs, research and clinical supervision, and formal education costs. Suggestions on how the budget can be spent are presented below;

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Clinical backfill: it is recognised that this may form the main budget expenditure. The most efficient backfill arrangements can be decided by the intern's team/service manager.

Research project: this could include anything related to the applied research objectives from patient and public involvement expenses, travel expenses, digital voice records, reference management systems, dictation services etc. We note that we are unable to fund laptops or computers.

Academic supervision and formal teaching: it is essential to have academic supervision throughout the award. Ideally this support should be from a University within the South West region, however it is recognised that some professional groups may have to find this support from outside of the region. It is recommended that academic supervision costs do not exceed 20% of the overall spending plan. In addition to academic supervision, it may also be appropriate to access formal teaching on research methods depending on the objectives of the internship.

Dissemination costs: an element of the award is to disseminate the findings through publications and/or conference presentations. Therefore, the award can be used to fund conference or publication costs.

The amount awarded will be paid directly to the awardees employer. It is recommended that the spending plans are checked by finance teams prior to submission.

Monitoring

Successful applicants will be expected to attend two sessions with holders of Southwest ICA awards. The sessions will offer opportunities to engage with a peer group, review your progress and consider requirements for application to NIHR ICA awards. You will be required to present about your award activities at one of the sessions.

A written progress report will be required after 3 months (maximum of 2 pages) to provide an update on progress with objectives, challenges and successes, any amendments to plans (where applicable) and priorities for the remaining period.

A final report will be completed at the end of the award (maximum of 4 pages) to provide a summary of achievement of objectives and outcomes, challenges and successes, financial summary and future plans.

Application process

You can arrange to get further information or advice about the award by emailing ICA.HEESW@uwe.ac.uk.

Prior to submitting an application, it is recommended that applicants contact the research leads within their NHS Trust to discuss applying for this award and investigate what support and help is available within the organisation. You will also require support from a clinical academic supervisor and some academic contacts for higher education institutes are included below.

Please submit a completed checklist (see Appendix 1) and all corresponding documentation to ICA.HEESW@uwe.ac.uk: by **Midday, Friday 28th May 2021**. Please include the checklist, your CV and cover letter as one document where possible (either word document or pdf). Emails sent from work email addresses will be accepted in place of written signatures.

Applications will be reviewed and assessed. Potential candidates for the awards will be invited to a panel interview on either Wednesday, 16th June 2021 or Thursday, 17th June 2021. You will have 7-10 days notice if you are invited to interview. Interviews will be scheduled for 20 minutes and will occur virtually.

Key dates

Closing date for applications:	Midday, Friday 28 th May 2021
Interview dates: Virtual via web-based conferencing	Wednesday, 16 th June 2021 OR Thursday, 17 th June 2021

NOTE:

- Applicants who choose to apply must be available for interview on the above dates. Where possible, we will try to accommodate specific needs.
- You will be notified about the outcomes of your application via email to the address that you have provided.
- Successful applicants will be expected to start between 1st September 2021 and 31st March 2022 and to complete the award within 6 months. Requests for adjustments will be considered on an individual basis

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HEI Contacts for ICA

The following people can be contacted with enquiries about potential clinical academic supervisors with relevant expertise.

AECC University College: Prof David Newell (dnewell@aecc.ac.uk)

Bournemouth University: Prof. Vanora Hundley (vhundley@bournemouth.ac.uk)

Plymouth Marjon University: Prof Gary Shum (gshum@marjon.ac.uk)

University of Exeter: Prof. Vicki Goodwin (V.goodwin@exeter.ac.uk)

University of Gloucestershire: Prof. Jane Melton (jmelton@glos.ac.uk)

University of Plymouth: Dr. Lisa Bunn (lisa.bunn@plymouth.ac.uk)

UWE Bristol: Assoc Prof. Mary Cramp (mary.cramp@uwe.ac.uk)

Appendix 1: Internship Award – Checklist

Name:	
Area of clinical academic interest:	
Contact details:	Email:
	Telephone:
Criteria <i>Please ensure you have provided all the information listed below before submission. Incomplete submissions may not be considered.</i>	Answer Yes/No
1. Registration with an appropriate UK regulatory and professional body Regulatory/professional body: Registration number:	
2. Curriculum Vitae (max of 3 pages, 12 pt font) confirming the following; a) Employment with a provider of health and/or care services in line with eligibility criteria b) Minimum of one year's practice post registration	
3. Cover letter (on headed paper) 1,000 words max (excluding references): a) Outline of proposed activity (including background to the research area and up to 10 references) b) Planned outcomes of the Internship (including how these address team/service clinical priorities and needs as discussed with your line manager) c) Reason for applying for the internship (including capability to continue on a clinical academic career pathway and planned benefits and learning of internship) d) Impact on quality of patient care (specify how your planned research and related clinical practice will improve the quality of patient care) e) Patient and Public Involvement (specify any PPI you plan to do during the internship)	
4. Letter of support from current line manager Line managers are requested to confirm that they agree in principle to support the applicant and their application. Emails from work email address are acceptable.	
5. Letter of support from clinical academic supervisor Supervisors are requested to highlight relevant areas of expertise and fit with current research themes. Emails from work email address are acceptable.	
6. A spending plan for the £10,000 budget for the internship period Please check your budget with your line manager and/or finance team if possible.	
7. I understand that, if successful, a confirmation letter from my organisation of management support and financial plans will be required prior to the provision of funding.	

I can confirm that I meet the criteria for an Integrated Clinical Academic Internship award and I have submitted all of the evidence described above.

Signed (applicant): **Date:**