

NIHR Applied Research Collaboration South West Peninsula (PenARC) and Clinical Research Network South West Peninsula Research (CRN-SWP) Internship Programme

The [NIHR Applied Research Collaboration \(ARC\) South West Peninsula](#) aims to develop the research skills of health, public health and social care staff in South West Peninsula region by:

- Supporting growth in applied health and care research
- Supporting career development across professions and disciplines
- Promoting equity of access to training
- Supporting the development of the next generation of applied health and care researchers.

The [NIHR Clinical Research Network \(CRN\)](#) supports the delivery of research by

- Helping to increase the [opportunities for patients and the public](#) to take part in research across health and social care settings
- Working in partnership with NHS trusts, CCGs, universities, local government and research funders to enable world-class research
- Providing professional support services for the effective delivery of health and social care research

Purpose of the Internship Programme

In collaboration with the CRN-SWP, this Internship programme is an introduction to research for those working in the South West Peninsula region with the aim of supporting them towards becoming clinical or practitioner academics or research methodologists in the future, in particular looking towards applying for a Pre-doctoral Fellowship through one of the following schemes:

- [Clinical and Practitioner Academic \(PCAF\) Scheme](#) or
- [Local Authority \(PLAF\) Scheme](#)
- [Health and social care research methodologists](#)

We are particularly keen to see applications from those interested in mental health, social care, primary care and public health or an interest in [under-served populations](#)

How to apply for the 2022-23 Internship Programme

1. Am I eligible to apply?

The internship programme is for applicants working in the health or social care sector in the South West Peninsula region (excluding medically qualified doctors and dentists) who fulfil the following criteria.

We would welcome applications from those from ethnic minority backgrounds and those with lived experience of health or social care.

Applicants must

- be employed by a provider of health and/or care services in the South West Peninsula region. This includes:
 - NHS organisations
 - Social enterprises providing health and care services
 - Local authorities
 - Providers of local authority commissioned services
 - Non-profit organisations that provide services on behalf of a local authority
- hold a full or part time contract with the employing organisation. Fixed terms contracts of any duration are acceptable but honorary contracts or bank work cannot be accepted.
- have an undergraduate degree in a relevant subject such as health and social care, social sciences or STEM
- have at least one year's post-graduate experience
- have support from their current line manager to undertake the internship (template available in 'How do I apply?' section)
- have the ability to start the programme by between 1st Sept 2022 and 31st Dec 2022, and complete it on time (within 12 months).

2. What are the key dates?

Applications open May 2022

Closing date 17th June 2022 at midday

Shortlisting for interview decisions emailed week beginning 20th June 2022

Interviews (via Teams) will be on Thursday 30th June 2022. Alternative dates for interview will not be available so please hold this date in your diary.

Outcome of interviews emailed week beginning 4th July 2022

Internship start date between 1st Sept 2022 and 31st Sept 2022

3. How do I apply?

Applications must be submitted using the online Microsoft form [here](#)

Some questions have word count limits so it may be easier to draft your answers first in a Word document to check your word count and copy and paste these across to the appropriate section.

Written support letter from you line manager must be emailed to penarc@exeter.ac.uk by 17th June 2022 at midday.

You can download a template to a letter of support [here](#)

4. Who can I contact for more information?

For further questions please contact:

Charlotte Hewlett, Research Manager c.hewlett@exeter.ac.uk

Or

Vicki Goodwin, Academic Career Development Lead v.goodwin@exeter.ac.uk

5. What are the research themes/priority areas for PenARC and CRN-SWP?

Within the application form you will be asked to give an outline of which research theme(s) you are interested in undertaking your internship in and why. You do not need to have prior research experience, but your internship topic will need to align with at least one of the PenARC research themes or CRN-SWP priority areas listed below.

- Mental health
- Dementia
- Complex care
- Public health
- Children's health and maternity
- Methods for research and improvement
- Social care
- Primary Care

6. What will the Internship provide?

- Salary backfill to your employer (including national insurance and pension contributions) for 30 days (225 hours) to be used flexibly over 12 months to suit the needs of the Intern's current role and work life balance.
- An opportunity to develop research knowledge and skills through
 - Experiential learning with an academic team, E.g. contributing to a study or developing a research idea
 - Support from the CRN to get research delivery experience
 - Formal training e.g. a Master's level research module at either the University of Exeter or Plymouth
- Shared learning opportunities with peers
- Regular meetings with an academic supervisor based at either the University of Exeter or the University of Plymouth
- Funding for a personalised training and development programme developed with your supervisor prior to commencement of the award (a condition of the award is that

the training and development programme will need to be submitted for approval at least one month prior to the start date)

- Funding for Patient and Public Engagement activities
- Membership of the NIHR Academy (and access to NIHR training and development opportunities)
- An associate account at your host university to allow you to access the library facilities etc.

7. Internship support and monitoring

Successful award holders will be expected to attend two community of practice sessions. These sessions will offer opportunities to engage with your peer group of awardees, review your progress and consider requirements for application to NIHR Pre-doctoral awards. You will be required to present about your award activities at one of the sessions.

A written progress report will be required at the half-way point of your programme (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.

8. What are the 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:

- Demonstrates an awareness and aspiration to pursue an academic/clinical academic/practitioner academic career
- Evidence of previous study at BA/ BSc level or above
- Research interests that have alignment with at least one of the PenARC and CRN-SWP research themes or priority areas
- Support and appropriate dedicated time from the place of work/practice setting to undertake the internship
- Strong interest and willingness to undertake research training and development