**Introduction**

The Oxford and Thames Valley NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) aims to develop the research skills of health and social care professionals and researchers in Oxford and Thames valley area 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.

Health Education England (HEE) and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) have established an Integrated Clinical Academic (ICA) programme for non-medical healthcare and social care professionals. These internships will be run in the Oxford and Thames Valley region by the Oxford and Thames Valley ARC.

The internship award programme supports research capacity building in applied health and care research in the region. These awards are intended to introduce people working within health or care organisations to research with the aim of supporting them to become leading independent researchers in the future.

Internship awards fund up to a maximum of £20,000 to support individuals looking for an opportunity to experience the research process within an established team of leading health researchers - or to develop their research skills following completion of a PhD. Small awards would be considered for shorter training opportunities such as research or masters courses.

These awards are open to health and social care staff employed on a full or part-time basis, if all costs remain within the maximum funding envelope. **Proposals should align with Oxford and Thames Valley ARC themes:**

* Changing Behaviours for Better Health and Preventing Disease
* Helping Patients to Manage Their Own Conditions
* Mental Health across the Life Course
* Improving Health and Social Care
* Applied Digital Health
* Novel Methods to Aid and Evaluate Implementation

The ARC-OxTV undertakes applied research. Research projects are likely to involve work with patients or patient data, completing clinical studies, qualitative research or systematic reviews.

[**https://www.arc-oxtv.nihr.ac.uk/our\_work**](https://www.arc-oxtv.nihr.ac.uk/our_work)

**Eligibility:**

The awards are open to any professional working in the health or social care sector in Oxford and the Thames Valley region. To be eligible for one of these awards you will need to provide evidence that you have the following:

1. Current registration to practice in the UK with the appropriate regulatory bodies <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/heenihr-ica-programme-eligible-professions-and-regulators/12204>

2. Hold a substantive full or part-time contract with a health or social care organisation

3. At least one year’s post-registration practice experience

4. Support from your line manager to undertake the internship

5. A keen interest in a research focused career

6. Mentorship from a named research supervisor (identified by you\*)

7. The opportunity to develop links with an existing research theme (identified by you – see list above)

8. Ability to start the programme from October 2024, and complete it on time (within 6-12 months).

**Please note**: Individuals already in receipt of a research grant/fellowship from elsewhere are not eligible for this award.

**How can the funding be used?**

Successful applicants can use the award to cover costs including salary backfill, incidental costs, research and clinical supervision, and training costs. Suggestions on how the budget can be spent are presented below;

1. **Salary backfill** - It is recognised that this may form the main budget expenditure. The most appropriate backfill arrangements should be decided by you and your team/line manager.

2. **Training** – It is essential to have supervision throughout the award. Ideally, this support should be from a partner organisation that works with the Oxford and Thames Valley ARC.\*If you’re struggling to identify potential supervisors please contact us and we can try and support this. Some training would be expected, though would not normally exceed 50% of the total budget. A training plan should be submitted with your application.

If you would like advice or support with your application, or directing to appropriate members of the ARC-OxTV contact [Katherine.tucker@phc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Katherine.tucker@phc.ox.ac.uk)

**Application process:**

Please submit an application and completed checklist (see below) and all corresponding documentation to: [arc\_oxtv@phc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:arc_oxtv@phc.ox.ac.uk) by 5:00 pm on Friday 7th June 2024.

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| **Key dates: Closing date for applications:** | Friday 7th June 2024 (5pm) |
| **Interviews:** Online | Thursday / Friday 21st June 2024 |
| **Award period:** | Usually, September 2024 onwards. |

Application Checklist

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name:** |  |
| **Area of research interest:** |  |
| **Contact details** | **Email:**  **Mobile:** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | | | **Submitted (yes/no)** |
| **1. Registration with an appropriate UK regulatory and professional body:**   1. Regulatory/professional body: ………………………………………………………… 2. Registration number: …………………………………………………………………… | | |  |
| **2. Brief Curriculum Vitae confirming the following:**   1. Employment within health or social care in the Thames Valley region. 2. Minimum of one year’s practice post registration / employment. | | |  |
| **3. Application/Cover letter including:**   1. Reason for applying for the award and why the research can help your care and practice (max 400 words). 2. What experience you have had to date in research (max 400 words). 3. What skills and qualities you have, which make you suitable for the Internship programme? (max 400 words) 4. The outcomes that you hope to achieve by the end of the internship and how these fit within the ARC-OxTV priorities/themes (max 400 words). 5. Your choices of supervisor and/or mentor at one of the ARC-OxTV collaborative partner organisations - giving reasons (max 400 words) 6. A training plan to support your learning that will be gained through the duration of the internship award (max 400 words). 7. Is there anything else you would like to add to support your application? (max 400 words) | | |  |
| **4. Letter of support from Line Manager**. | | |  |
| **5. Letter of support from a clinical research supervisor if postdoctoral** | | |  |
| **6. Illustrated alignment of project with respective themes and clinical needs.**   1. With ARC related themes. 2. Team/service clinical/care priorities and needs. | | |  |
| **7. A detailed spending plan for within the maximum £20,000 budget for the award period.** | | |  |
| I can confirm that I meet the criteria for the award and I have submitted all of the evidence described above. | | | |
| **Signed:** | **Date:** |  | |

Once completed please send to [arc\_oxtv@phc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:arc_oxtv@phc.ox.ac.uk) by 5pm on Friday 21st April 2023