**Internships for Research activity or application**

**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 the Thames valley area and nationally 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 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 funding is for aspiring healthcare professionals, clinical or practitioner academics, healthcare professionals working in research delivery, and healthcare professionals who provide support for research and/or want to undertake activities to support the application of research evidence in practice. This can include knowledge mobilisation (a two-way dialogue between researchers and research users so that knowledge can be shared to create new knowledge to catalyse change) and knowledge exchange (the sharing of ideas, data, experience and expertise). Advanced Practitioners may also use an internship to develop the research pillar of their role.

The internship may comprise a range of taught, experiential and supervised components that expose the intern to ways to integrate research more fully into a practice-based career, and is not restricted to aspiring clinical academics. healthcare professionals working in research delivery may wish to use an internship to extend their research delivery skills and gain experience in wider aspects of the research process.

The funding is for both pre-doctoral and post-doctoral internships. 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.

Internships are usually awarded up to £10,000 (+£1,500 for supervision) 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. Awards usually cover 6-12 months of salary back fill. Where an individual's current salary grade means total costs will exceed £10,000, this will be accommodated where possible. Small awards would be considered for shorter training opportunities such as research or master's 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 broadly 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 registered health, care, and public health professional working in the health or social care sector. Awards will primarily be for those form the Thames Valley region. To be eligible for one of these awards you will need:

1. To be a healthcare professional clinical or practitioner academic, Healthcare professional working in research delivery, or health and care professionals who provide support for research and/or wants to undertake activities to support the application of research evidence in practice \*\*

2. Current registration to practice in the UK with the appropriate regulatory bodies

3. Support from your line manager to undertake the internship

4. A keen interest in research

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

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

7. Ability to start the programme before 31st March 2025, and complete it on time (within 12 months).

*\*\*Medical doctors and dentists are not eligible for this award*

We actively encourage community nurses to apply.

Individuals who do not have registration can contact the ARC-OxTV for a conversation about potential opportunities. ([arc\_oxtv@phc.ox.ac.uk)](mailto:arc_oxtv@phc.ox.ac.uk)

**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 within 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 10th January 2025.

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| **Key dates: Closing date for applications:** | Friday 10th January 2025 (5pm) |
| **Interviews:** Online | From week commencing 20th January 2025 |
| **Award period:** | Usually, from March 2025 onwards and completed within 12 months. |

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. Profession ………………………………………………………… | | |  |
| **2. Brief Curriculum Vitae confirming the following:**   1. Employment or connection with health or social care in the Thames Valley region. | | |  |
| **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 the £10,000 budget for the award period (+£1,500 supervision).** | | |  |
| 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 10th January 2025