

SPCR internship projects 2026

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Length and dates of internship: 4 week period any time from Monday ???. (We will consider requests for this to be worked over a longer period on a part time basis)
Host department: Centre for Academic Primary Care, University of Bristol
How will the internship be conducted: <input type="checkbox"/> In person at the university <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual/ from home <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both are possible, depending on preference of student
Title internship project: Creating a research dataset for sharing and re-use; the IMPPP trial quantitative dataset
Summary of the internship project: <i>(max 250 words, can include hyperlinks to further information)</i> Open Science advocates for open access to research, including data that has been generated or captured through a trial. In the UK there has been a movement toward adopting open science with increasing expectation amongst funders and publishers of health and social care research that data be made available for re-use. We are currently preparing a dataset collected through the IMPPP trial so that it can be used by other researchers for secondary analysis.
Improving Medicines use in People with Polypharmacy in Primary Care – The IMPPP trial The Improving Medicines use in People with Polypharmacy in Primary Care (IMPPP) cluster randomised trial evaluated a complex medication review intervention against usual care. The intervention included a clinical informatics tool to identify patients aged 18+, receiving ≥5 long-term medications and with potentially inappropriate prescribing. Training was provided to clinicians to support delivery of a four-stage medication review (i.e. a pharmacist case-note review, interprofessional collaborative discussion between the pharmacist and a general practitioner, a review with patient, and follow-up where clinically indicated). Alongside this an integrated process evaluation was also conducted.

With participant consent, the trial team collected different types of data, including data from electronic health records, training evaluation forms, patient participant questionnaires, semi-structured interviews with clinicians and patients and audio-recordings of medication reviews.

Student project

Following last years successful internship which focused on preparing IMPPP trial qualitative data, the focus for this 2026 placement will be the quantitative data. You will be supported by Dr Caddick and Dr McCahon to prepare a data deposit of IMPPP trial data for the University of Bristol Research Data Repository. This will include discussion of ethical considerations, how to contextualise a quantitative research dataset with useful metadata and develop guides to enable use of a secondary research dataset.

Learning objectives:

- Understand how research projects and teams function to achieve data collection
- Understand the impact of the Open Science agenda on making research data open access
- Understand how open access to data offers an opportunity for secondary analysis of data following completion of a trial
- Understand how to manage sensitive data to keep it secure
- Understand the types of data generated through a primary care trial
- Understand how to prepare a trial dataset for deposit within a repository for re-use by other researchers

Any further information:

The supervisory team has extensive experience of supporting student interns across a range of placements, from undergraduate through to master's students. Both have experience of supervising medical students, and of supervising student interns from a range of courses (psychology, law, history, medical). Our previous interns have contributed to academic papers, presentations at conferences and have produced and presented posters as lead author.