

SPCR internship projects 2026

Name & email supervisor(s):

Dr Louise Pealing (L.Pealing2@exeter.ac.uk)

Dr Sam Trethewey (S.Trethewey2@exeter.ac.uk)

Name & email of reviewer(s) for applicants applying to undertake this internship project:

Dr Louise Pealing (L.Pealing2@exeter.ac.uk)

Length and dates of internship: Either 4 weeks FT or pro-rata but no longer than 8 weeks from Monday 1st June.

Host department:

Exeter Collaboration for Academic Primary Care, University of Exeter

How will the internship be conducted:

☐ In person at the university

☐ Virtual/ from home

☒ Both are possible, depending on preference of student

Title internship project:

A scoping review of community-based prevention and mitigation approaches to adverse childhood experiences

Summary of the internship project: *(max 250 words, can include hyperlinks to further information)*

Building on a seminal 1998 US study ([US study](#)), which established that Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) were common and there was a graded dose-response relationship between ACEs and poor adult health outcomes, a growing evidence base now highlights the lifelong impact of ACEs (including factors such as economic disadvantage and peer victimisation). Consequently, addressing ACEs has become a public health, economic, and moral imperative.

Whilst the societal changes required for primary prevention can appear insurmountable, a growing but fragmented body of evidence exists regarding possible community-level strategies that can protect and support young people and build resilience against harm.

The NHS 10 Year Health Plan envisages a neighbourhood health service where the broader determinants of health are co-located and more effectively integrated, and primary care can take a leading role in what it does best: holistic life-course care. This shift provides an opportunity to co-develop and embed community-level strategies designed to mitigate against ACEs and develop data infrastructure to measure what is working and how.

Our scoping review will map the evidence base around community-level approaches aimed at ACEs, identifying key concepts, design factors and knowledge gaps, which can act as a guide in the co-development of strategies to be tested alongside neighbourhood health services.

Using JBI methodology, the student intern is invited to be a team member and involved in all ongoing stages. Activities will include: defining inclusion/exclusion criteria, building the search

strategy, organising and screening literature, extracting and charting data, then collating, summarising and reporting the findings.

Learning objectives:

- Develop knowledge and experience of scoping review methods and activities using JBI standards.
- Acquire hands-on experience using EndNote and Rayyan software for reference management and screening.
- Develop academic writing skills and gain insight into the processes and rigour of peer-reviewed publication.
- Gain experience in working as a member of a multi-disciplinary research team, observing how diverse clinical and academic perspectives integrate.
- Develop professional contacts and networks within APEx and their collaborators working within key themes of young persons health, multiple long terms conditions, prevention and knowledge and evidence synthesis, which can provide a basis for future research engagement and career development.

Any further information:

Please submit this form to Sinead McDonagh (s.t.j.mcdonagh@exeter.ac.uk) by end of the day on Tuesday 27th Jan who will co-ordinate review and selection if necessary to send to the SPCR Directorate (spcr@keele.ac.uk) no later than Friday 30th January 2026.