SPCR internship projects 2026

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Name & email of reviewer(s) for applicants applying to undertake this internship project: Stefanie Bonfield email: s.bonfield@qmul.ac.uk
Length and dates of internship: The internship is offered for a period of 8 weeks at 17.5 hours per week running across June and July 2026. Worked days and hours could be agreed based on the intern's preferences and availability although working at least a half day on a Thursday would be helpful as this is when project meetings take place. We would be able to consider fewer hours per week over a longer period if needed.
Host department: Centre for Primary Care and Public Health, Queen Mary University of London
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: Prostate cancer testing: a review of media coverage
Summary of the internship project: *(max 250 words, can include hyperlinks to further information)* The internship will form part of the PERSPECTIVES research project which is funded by Cancer Research UK and co-led by Professor Jo Waller and Dr Laura Marlow at Queen Mary University of London. The aim of the first PERSPECTIVES study is to understand public perspectives of prostate cancer testing and generate evidence to support policy. The intern will support the study by becoming familiar with the context of prostate cancer testing and gathering relevant literature and media coverage to facilitate the research team's understanding of the public perspective. The internship will be an opportunity to learn about how a research project is run including study design, data collection and analysis, day to day project management, teamworking and communication with stakeholders (e.g. the policy team at Cancer Research UK, public and patient representatives, academic colleagues). The internship would be suitable for any student with an interest in social sciences, public health, health inequalities, cancer screening and/or early diagnosis. No previous experience is required although the role would suit someone who is interested in learning more about research. The student will be supervised and fully supported by a Postdoctoral Research Associate who works full time on the project, with additional input from the wider research team. The supervisor will discuss the student's research and career interests and facilitate conversations with other colleagues in the department. They will also invite the student to attend and observe relevant

project and centre meetings and seminars to give them exposure to working in an academic environment.

Learning objectives:

1. To familiarise yourself with the background of the PERSPECTIVES research project and progress to date
2. To familiarise yourself with the context of prostate cancer and prostate cancer testing in the UK including risk factors, incidence and mortality rates, current guidance and recent policy updates
3. To undertake a review of recent media coverage and grey literature (e.g. charity reports) surrounding prostate cancer and Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) testing
4. To attend, observe and contribute to meetings with the PERSPECTIVES project research team, funders, advisory panel and public and patient involvement members
5. To attend and contribute to relevant meetings in the Centre for Cancer Screening, Prevention and Early Diagnosis (e.g. weekly meetings, seminars, journal clubs)
6. To discuss career paths and research interests with academic colleagues across the centre
7. To write a short report on the internship experience and findings, potentially for inclusion in a blog or LinkedIn post

Any further information:

The internship can be undertaken entirely online but the student is welcome to work in the department based in London (Farringdon) alongside the research team if they are able to travel and have the funds to do so.