

## SPCR internship projects 2026

<b>Name &amp; email supervisor(s):</b> Merlin Willcox <a href="mailto:m.l.willcox@soton.ac.uk">m.l.willcox@soton.ac.uk</a>
<b>Name &amp; email of reviewer(s) for applicants applying to undertake this internship project:</b> Mark Lown ( <a href="mailto:m.lown@soton.ac.uk">m.lown@soton.ac.uk</a> )
<b>Length and dates of internship:</b>  Flexible, depending on mutual availability of intern and supervisor. Any time from 1 June 2026. Equivalent of 4 weeks full-time placement based on 35 hours per week a total of 140 hours. But this could be part-time spread out over more weeks.
<b>Host department:</b> Primary Care, Population Sciences and Medical Education, University of Southampton
<b>How will the internship be conducted:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> In person at the university <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Virtual/ from home <input type="checkbox"/> Both are possible, depending on preference of student
<b>Title internship project:</b> Factors affecting uptake of long-acting reversible contraception in low to middle income countries: A systematic review of qualitative studies
<b>Summary of the internship project:</b> ( <i>max 250 words, can include hyperlinks to further information</i> )  <b>Background:</b> Unintended pregnancy is a serious health concern in low-and-middle income countries (LMICs), because it increases risks of maternal and perinatal mortality. Long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) is the most effective form of contraception but its use in LMICs remains low, despite multiple interventions to increase uptake. <b>Study aims:</b> To identify facilitators and barriers to LARC use in LMICs. <b>Methodology:</b> We have started a systematic review of qualitative literature. We searched MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL and Sociological abstracts using terms for LARCs and qualitative studies. The intern will update this search and will screened titles and abstracts to identify studies that met the inclusion criteria (qualitative studies about views/ experiences of LARCs in LMICs). The quality of the included papers will be assessed using the CASP checklist. A coding framework has already been developed and will be used to code data using Nvivo. The intern will update the existing thematic synthesis with new data from the updated search, and will format this for submission to a peer-reviewed journal for publication.
<b>Learning objectives:</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To learn how to conduct a systematic review of qualitative studies</li><li>- To learn how to search databases of the medical literature, and conduct screening of articles using RAYYAN.</li><li>- To learn how to conduct data extraction</li></ul>

- TO learn how to write up a systematic review for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

**Any further information:**