

SPCR internship project 2026

Name & email supervisor(s):

Dr Amelia Talbot
Qualitative Researcher & Medical Sociologist
E: amelia.talbot@phc.ox.ac.uk

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

Dr Amelia Talbot
Qualitative Researcher & Medical Sociologist
E: amelia.talbot@phc.ox.ac.uk

Length and dates of internship:

The internship will comprise 140 working hours over four consecutive weeks (35 hours per week). The earliest start date is Wednesday 1st July 2026, but I will flexibly agree upon the exact date with the successful candidate for inclusivity purposes.

Host department:

Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford

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:

Understanding the acceptability of very brief advice for smoking cessation within routine financial advice services

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

I am recruiting an intern to work within the Oxford Tobacco Addiction Group ([OxTAG](#)) on our exciting trial, '[SAVINGS](#)'. SAVINGS aims to understand whether giving someone who smokes [very brief advice](#) (VBA) on stopping smoking in routine financial advice services like housing associations makes them more likely to quit than someone who does not receive the advice.

The intern will be invited to work with me, Amelia, an expert qualitative researcher, to analyse interviews on participants' experiences with the VBA. They will focus on understanding whether participants found the VBA acceptable to determine whether the intervention could be scaled up into routine financial advice services. I will support the intern to summarise their findings in a blog for our Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine [website](#). Where possible, I will also support them to produce a high-quality abstract for presentation at an academic conference. I have a superb record of mentoring novice qualitative researchers.

I will support the intern to gain experience with monitoring fidelity to trial processes by listening to audio-recordings to verify that the advice is delivered as intended in the intervention group and not inadvertently delivered in the control group. They will participate in meetings with our national collaborators to discuss their findings and gain experience with the real-time operations of running a trial, while I also support them to pursue their own development.

I will strongly encourage the intern to attend our OxTAG meetings to network and learn about the diverse research/ methods used within the wider team.

(250/250 words).

Learning objectives:

During this internship, I will support the successful candidate to:

1. Develop an understanding of VBA, its role in smoking cessation, and the importance of implementing VBA in communities where increasing socioeconomic disadvantage coincides with higher smoking prevalence.
2. Contribute to fidelity checking of audio-recordings of intervention and control group consultations and check interview transcripts from MS Teams for accuracy.
3. Develop and apply practical skills in qualitative content analysis and interpretation to interview transcripts (with the option of using NVivo data management software).
4. Participate and discuss initial findings from their qualitative content analysis in SAVINGS meetings with the OxTAG team, as well in meetings with our external collaborators and Patient and Public Involvement members.
5. Produce a blog post for our research group's website, and where possible a conference abstract and accompanying academic poster or oral presentation.
6. Network with members of OxTAG and the wider Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine team.
7. Attend professional development training, webinars, and/or lectures on research skills.

I am committed to working with the successful candidate to identify their own professional development objectives. I will proactively seek relevant training and networking opportunities internally from my research group, department, the University and externally to ensure the placement is mutually beneficial and supports their development.

Any further information:

OxTAG are a warm and inclusive team who are passionate about supporting the development of early career researchers. I hope that the intern's time with us inspires them to pursue a career in health research. Both myself and members of OxTAG are happy to provide direct experience and mentorship on applying for master's and PhD programmes, and research assistant positions.

I have experience with mentoring: I previously line-managed an intern working on a large qualitative research study and was incredibly proud when he subsequently secured ESRC funding for a PhD in Medical Anthropology. He shared the following feedback about his time with me:

"Over the course of 8 weeks as an intern under Dr Amelia Talbot's line-management, I gained an appreciation for the processes of knowledge production in qualitative health research which encouraged me to (successfully) apply for a PhD in Medical Anthropology. Amelia's tutelage in the principles of open science, systematic reviews, and patient and public involvement served me well throughout my MRes at UCL and I keep returning to them even now in the second year of my doctoral research. Amelia's mentorship helped me move beyond being a consumer of research in my undergraduate at Oxford, to becoming certain that I wanted to pursue a career in qualitative health research. Amelia has inspired me to take up teaching and mentorship opportunities whenever I have encountered them, and I hope I have inspired my mentees as much as Dr Talbot continues to do so for me."

I am happy to provide the contact details for this person if you would like to learn more about their experiences of interning with me.

This application was reviewed and approved by the Principal Investigator of SAVINGS and leader of OxTAG, Associate Professor Nicola Lindson (nicola.lindson@phc.ox.ac.uk).