

SPCR internship projects 2026

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Length and dates of internship: June 2026 (4 weeks full-time)
Host department: Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford
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: Advancing Antibiotic Stewardship for the Management of Respiratory Infections
Summary of the internship project: <i>(max 250 words, can include hyperlinks to further information)</i> The internship sits within a multidisciplinary primary care research team focused on antibiotic stewardship in the management of respiratory tract infections. The intern will support two projects: 1) a qualitative study of young people's help-seeking for acute Respiratory Tract Infections (RTIs), and 2) the 'SPARROW' evaluation of diagnostic testing for Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LTRIs) in Wales. The young people's study explores how individuals aged 18-24 in the UK manage acute respiratory tract infections and make decisions about seeking care, using semi-structured interviews. The intern will familiarise themselves with relevant literature and study protocols and support early-stage qualitative analysis of anonymised interview data. This will include contributing to coding discussions and early theme refinement. The intern will also support Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) activities with an established young people's panel including preparation of materials, supporting meeting facilitation and documentation of feedback. The SPARROW study is a mixed-method evaluation generating real-world evidence on the use of C-reactive protein (CRP) point-of-care tests (POCTs) to guide antibiotic prescribing for LTRIs. The study examines how diagnostic testing is implemented and used in primary care across Wales, and develops and evaluates interventions to support appropriate POCT use and antibiotic prescribing. The intern will support intervention development activities, including involvement in co-design workshops with clinicians and patients, and contribute to analysis of workshop data using a framework approach.

Through these activities, the intern will gain experience in qualitative research, intervention development and PPIE activities, while working within a multidisciplinary team focused on antimicrobial stewardship, health behaviours and experiences of infection management.

Learning objectives:

1. Critically engage with relevant literature and research protocols relating to antimicrobial stewardship, young people's help-seeking behaviours, and diagnostic testing for LTRIs in primary care.
2. Apply qualitative analytic approaches, including principles of thematic and framework analysis, to qualitative data.
3. Support PPIE and co-design activities by preparing materials and summarising feedback while maintaining appropriate ethical and professional boundaries.
4. Work collaboratively within a multidisciplinary research team, contributing to discussions on recruitment, data collection and analysis, intervention development and study progress across multiple projects.
5. Develop awareness of ethical considerations in qualitative health research, including confidentiality and data protection.

Any further information:

The internship would suit candidates with interests in qualitative research and behavioural science applications in primary care.