

SPCR internship projects 2026

Name & email supervisor(s):

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

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Length and dates of internship:

Anytime between 1st June 2026 to 1st March 2027

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:

Realist Evidence Synthesis about Primary Care Workforce and Learning

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

Our research in the [Workforce and Learning Research Group](#) supports a portfolio of nationally-funded realist reviews focused on NHS primary care workforce and learning.

Realist reviews aim to understand how, why, for whom, and in what circumstances interventions or ways of working produce particular outcomes. This placement offers an undergraduate intern a structured introduction to realist thinking with one of our researchers, while contributing meaningfully to ongoing research.

We have a number of active research projects and experience of welcoming and supervising previous SPCR interns within our cross-disciplinary and cross-institutional team. We can tailor to individual SPCR intern interests, and the specific time-point they select for their internship. Opportunities to contribute to or extend our ongoing realist reviews include:

- workforce sustainability (working with the [Workforce Voices](#) research partnership) e.g. [the evolving role of receptionists in general practice](#), the primary–secondary care interface in under-served areas
- [relational continuity of care](#)
- [compound pressures in general practice](#).

Tailored Internship Activities

Activities and outcomes are customisable to intern interests, including:

- **Realist Methodology:** An overview of the realist approach with key readings and papers.
- **Collaboration:** Working with national/international research teams, stakeholders, and PPI members.
- **Evidence Synthesis:** Hands-on experience with screening, analysis, and developing programme theories (Context, Mechanism, Outcome, Configurations CMOCs).
- **Dissemination:** Creating accessible materials like visual narratives or infographics.

Learning Outcomes

- **Methodological Skills:** Introductory understanding of realist and evidence synthesis methods.
- **Professional Experience:** Working on "live" health services research within a prestigious primary care department.
- **Sector Knowledge:** Insight into workforce issues in under-served areas.
- **Impact:** Understanding how evidence informs workforce policy and practice.
- **Communication:** Skills in translating complex findings for diverse audiences.

Learning objectives:

Key objectives will include:

1. Gaining an understanding of the realist approach and its application to workforce research in the NHS.
2. Engaging with evidence relating to the NHS primary care workforce
3. Helping to translate the realist findings into a variety of outputs (this may include: articles for publication, visual summaries, or infographics or writing plain language summaries)
4. Gaining insights about research (e.g. how teams work) to inform future professional development and/or career plans.

Any further information:

The intern will be supervised by members of the Workforce Learning Research Group at Oxford University including Professor Sophie Park. Regular check-ins will be planned together to provide

structure, guidance, and reflection. Tasks will be clearly defined and supported, with flexibility based on the intern's experience and interests.