

## Template for SPCR internship projects 2026

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<b>Name &amp; email of reviewer(s) for applicants applying to undertake this internship project:</b>
<b>Length and dates of internship:</b> Four-Six weeks full time equivalent, summer 2026, start date from June 2026. End date by end Sept 2026 Uashar Badakhshan <a href="mailto:ub218@exeter.ac.uk">ub218@exeter.ac.uk</a> Libin Antony <a href="mailto:L.Antony@exeter.ac.uk">L.Antony@exeter.ac.uk</a> Nicky Ahadi <a href="mailto:na542@exeter.ac.uk">na542@exeter.ac.uk</a> Reza Zamani <a href="mailto:R.Zamani@exeter.ac.uk">R.Zamani@exeter.ac.uk</a> Tanimola Martins <a href="mailto:tom207@exeter.ac.uk">tom207@exeter.ac.uk</a>
<b>Host department:</b> Exeter Collaboration for Academic Primary Care, University of Exeter
<b>How will the internship be conducted:</b> <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
<b>Title internship project: The impact of ethnicity-specific PSA reference ranges on prostate cancer diagnosis: a systematic review</b>
<b>Summary of the internship project:</b> <i>(max 250 words, can include hyperlinks to further information)</i> The systematic review will assess the impact of ethnicity-specific reference ranges for prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing on prostate cancer diagnosis. The project builds on our previous research demonstrating substantial ethnic variation in PSA levels, raising concerns that the use of a single universal PSA threshold, as currently applied in UK clinical practice, may increase the risk of overdiagnosis among men with higher baseline PSA values. The review will examine whether the adoption of ethnicity-adjusted PSA reference ranges could improve diagnostic accuracy and reduce potential harms associated with PSA testing. To support meaningful translation into practice, the review will focus on studies conducted in the UK and in countries with comparable healthcare systems (e.g., Canada, Sweden, and Denmark etc)  The review protocol is currently in development, and the literature search will be completed prior to the start of the intern's placement. The successful intern will contribute to key stages of the review process, including study screening, data extraction, and risk-of-bias assessment. They will also contribute to report writing, present findings at departmental seminars, and co-author the resulting paper, subject to level of contribution. This project will provide hands-on experience in systematic review methodology, critical appraisal of evidence, and prostate cancer diagnostics research within an active research team.
<b>Learning objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gain a general understanding of, and practical experience in, applied health research, with a focus on the diagnosis of symptomatic prostate cancer.</li><li>• Develop core skills in conducting systematic reviews, including literature searching, study screening, data extraction, and critical appraisal.</li><li>• Develop skills in academic writing, including contributing to reports and manuscripts, and gain experience of the publication process through co-authorship, subject to contribution.</li></ul>
<b>Any further information:</b> This project is delivered as part of a Wellcome Trust-funded project seeking to determine the potential harms of current prostate cancer diagnostic pathways.