# SPCR internship projects 2023 – University of Manchester

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| **Name & email supervisor(s):**  Main supervisor: Professor Ellen Schafheutle, [Ellen.Schafheutle@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Ellen.Schafheutle@manchester.ac.uk)  With: Dr Imelda McDermott, [Imelda.Mcdermott@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Imelda.Mcdermott@manchester.ac.uk) |
| **Proposed length of internship and when it could take place:**  ~ 1 month: mid-June to mid-July 2023 |
| **Host department:**  Institute of Population Health, University of Manchester  *Specifically in the* ***Centre for Pharmacy Workforce Studies, Division of Pharmacy and Optometry****, The University of Manchester* |
| **How will the internship be conducted:**  In person at the university  Virtual/ from home  Both are possible, depending on preference student  *If possible, and if the student is local, it would be good for them to come to the office at lest on some days, so they can experience working with other PhD students and post-docs.* |
| **Title internship project:**  Why do pharmacy technicians embark on their careers, and why do some decide to leave the profession early? |
| **Summary of the internship project:** *(max 250 words, can include hyperlinks to further information)*  As pharmacists become increasingly clinical, pharmacy technicians’ responsibilities have advanced also, and they play important roles in medicines supply and patient care. Besides many working in community pharmacy (and hospitals), numbers are increasing as part of expanding skill mix in primary care settings, particularly general practice.  In order to inform future workforce planning, the Centre for Pharmacy Workforce Studies ([CPWS](https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/cpws/)), in collaboration with ICF, an independent research organisation, have been commissioned by Health Education England (HEE) to undertake two separate but connected studies. One investigates pharmacy technicians’ reasons to join the profession, the other looks at reasons for leaving. Both studies are mix-methods, employing semi-structured interviews and a survey of recently registered pharmacy technicians, and those considering quitting.  With university ethics committee approval, online surveys were distributed in February 2023, and interviews are underway. During June and July, much of the survey analysis will have been completed, but final interviews will be conducted and qualitative data analysis will be getting underway.  This project offers the opportunity for an intern to experience being part of a research team (CPWS and ICF), and possible exposure to quantitative as well as qualitative data collection and analysis. We would hope that an intern could do things that add value to the overall work beyond what HEE have commissioned. This could involve writing briefing papers on the projects, producing an infographic, focusing on a specific issue identified in interviews that might not be of direct interest to HEE but of interest more broadly, etc. |
| **Learning objectives:**   * To experience being part of a research team, which is a collaboration between CPWS at the University of Manchester and an external policy research organisation, ICF * To be exposed to survey and/or qualitative interview analysis * To be part of report and/or infographic drafting |
| **Any further information:**  This would be most suited to a pharmacy student, however other students studying subjects other than medicine will also be able and welcome to work on this project, as its general purpose and methods are relevant to other workforce studies in primary care. |
| **How to apply:**  Please return completed application form (see below) to [rita.chow@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:rita.chow@manchester.ac.uk) by 1pm, 24th April 2023 |

NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) Internship for Manchester project – proposed period 19th June to 14th July 2023

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| Your name and email address |  |
| Degree you are studying/which year/which University |  |
| Internship project title |  |
| Reasons why you would like to take up this project. |  |