

Health Education Thames Valley

Clinical Academic Training Programme Internships Application Guidance

1. The National Context

- 1.1 The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Chief Officers for Nursing and Health Professions for England, in collaboration with the Higher Education Funding Council for England, have established an overarching integrated clinical academic training programme for Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals.
- 1.2 This programme is intended to increase research capacity in the NHS in order to improve health and healthcare, by developing people with the potential and aspiration to become leading clinical academics and independent researchers of the future.
- 1.3 The overarching Clinical Academic Training Programme (CATP) is aimed at Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals, and provides an opportunity to grow talented clinical researchers who can contribute to the evidence base of health care.
- 1.4 The implementation of the CATP programme is designed to enable delivery of the government's strategy "Developing the Role of the Clinical Academic researcher in Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions" (March 2012).
- 1.5 This year (2013/2014) we are funding five (5) internships in Thames Valley, the aim of these is to benefit individuals who at the beginning of their clinical academic career.
- 1.6 The aims of the internships are to:
 - Support clinicians who wish to follow a clinical research/academic career, by awarding them an internship which will give them experience of working in a clinical research environment; and/or
 - Support clinicians, who have completed a clinical research project, with the necessary support in order to write up their work for publication; and/or
 - Support clinicians' ability to apply successfully for formal research training opportunities within the CATP programme, run by NIHR or equivalent.

2. The Health Education Thames Valley CATP Internship programme

- 2.1 The internship programme is very individual and is devised by each applicant in order to meet their specific needs, and will include:
 - access to an academic supervisor;
 - mentorship from a clinical leader;
 - support from employer;
 - access to learning resources which could include modules or sessions on research.
- 2.2 These core elements are designed to help each intern develop a wider research support network. Each intern will have the opportunity to develop a bespoke programme with his/her academic supervisor.
- 2.3 In addition, interns will be able to participate in other activities which may include working with current researchers; observing data collection; visiting clinical research facilities, and attending research presentations and seminar.
- 2.4 The internships can be completed on a full or part-time basis, as long as all costs remain within the maximum funding envelope of £10,000, per intern.

3. Applicants

3.1 The internship is open to Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals with the following:

- Graduates with a 2:1 Honours degree, or equivalent
- Evidence of successful formal post-graduate academic study within the past five (5) years
- Evidence of active involvement in practice-based research within the past five (5) years
- Are currently registered to practice with their regulatory body, in the UK
- Work in practice for at least one (1) day per week for an organisation who provide healthcare within the Thames Valley area i.e. Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire or Berkshire
- Have at least one (1) year's post-registration practice experience
- Have employer support to undertake the internship programme
- Have a keen interest and display clear suitability for a research focussed clinical career
- Have an appropriate academic supervisor or links with an established research group, who will provide the academic and research support during the internship
- Be able to complete the internship programme by 31 March 2014

3.2 There will be five (5) funded places within Health Education Thames Valley

4. The Application process

4.1 Applicants should submit a curriculum vita which must include the items listed on Page 4.

Applicants should provide a summary of the intended outcomes of their internship; some examples are:

- **Research Proposal** – if applicants are planning to develop a research proposal, in readiness for an NIHR application, then they should submit an outline proposal which demonstrates that an area for research has been properly identified and considered. They should describe any appropriate pilot work that can be carried out during the internship period. Applicants should also identify any formal learning required in order to have the skills to undertake the proposed research, as well as research support. The proposal should be no longer than 500 words and should include:
 - * Purpose of research
 - * Research question
 - * Background to the proposal, including reference to the key literature
 - * Possible methodology
 - * Possible measures used to assess impact
 - * Implications for practice

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- **Publications** – if applicants are planning to write a paper(s) for publication from existing research, then an outline plan of the work should be submitted, complete with the planned Journal(s) to which it will be submitted. Applicants should also identify any formal learning required in order to have the skills to write the paper(s), as well as formal academic support required.
 - **Any other appropriate alternative**
- 4.3 Applicants will need to provide a letter of support participation in the internship programme from his/her employer; as well as a one page spending plan for how the £10,000 available (for each internship) will be spent.
- 5. Submitting the application**
The application should be sent directly to: Dawn.Osborne@wessex.hee.nhs.uk
- 5.1 The deadline for applications is Monday 9.00am 7th October 2013, and interviews will be held on Thursday 17 October 2013.
- 6. Funding**
- 6.1 Each applicant can apply for a maximum award of £10,000 to cover costs including backfill salary, incidental costs, research and clinical supervision, and formal education costs. The amount awarded is will be paid directly to the intern's employer.
- 7. For further information**
- 7.1 Please contact: Fleur Kitsell – Head of Innovation and Development, Health Education Thames Valley Fleur.Kitsell@wessex.hee.nhs.uk
Direct line 01962-718481

8. Clinical Academic Internships – Recruitment criteria

Criteria	Evidence
Nurse , Midwife or AHP with current UK registration with regulatory body	CV
Employment contract with NHS or engaged in the delivery of NHS services for duration of internship	CV
Employed in practice role for at least 1 day each week	CV
Minimum of 1 year's practice post registration	CV
Qualification of BSc/BA at 2.1 or evidence of study at Masters level	CV
Formal post-graduate academic study within last 5 years	CV
Evidence of Employer support	Application
Evidence of active engagement in practice-based research, past or present	CV/ Interview
Evidence of current links with appropriate academic/research team	CV/Interview
Appropriate spending plan for the £10,000 budget for the internship period	Application/Interview
Ability to complete internship at the required level, by end March 2014	Interview
Understanding of how clinical practice and research can support the delivery of current policy drivers e.g. the QIPP agenda;	Interview
Personal statement on benefits and learning to applicant, which will be gained by undertaking this internship	CV/Interview
Capability to continue on a clinical academic career pathway	CV/Interview