

Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire region and Frimley ICS

Integrated Clinical Academic (ICA) Programme

HEE/NIHR ICA Internship



Oxford Institute of
Nursing, Midwifery & Allied Health Research

Information and application process

For further information contact

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Introduction

Health Education England (HEE) and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) have established an overarching Integrated Clinical Academic (ICA) Programme for nursing, midwifery, and allied health professionals (NMAHPs). This programme is intended to increase research capacity to improve health and healthcare, by developing people with the potential and aspiration to become leading clinical academics and independent researchers in the future.

We have received national funding to support a number of internships in the Thames Valley. These awards support individuals who are early in their clinical academic career and will be delivered through the Oxford Institute of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Research (OxINMAHR), Faculty of Health and Life Sciences at Oxford Brookes University ([brookes.ac.uk/oxinmahr/](https://www.brookes.ac.uk/oxinmahr/)).

The internships will provide an introduction to a range of concepts and approaches relating to applied health research aimed at supporting Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professional interns to apply for an NIHR Pre-doctoral Clinical Academic Fellowship (PCAF); an NIHR Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship (CDRF), and/or work within a research team that will submit a proposal for funding

It is important for successful interns to have support from their line manager. The objectives of the internship and future clinical academic aspirations should align with team/service clinical priorities and needs. Applications are particularly welcomed where the focus of the proposed research is in the following HEE priority areas: Improving the experience of people with dementia; Primary and community care; Compassionate care and the NHS Constitution; Urgent & Emergency care; Care for people with Intellectual Disabilities; Improving Patient Safety; Technology Enhanced Learning

For further information about the HEE-NIHR ICA Programme please follow the link below:
<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/hee-nihr-integrated-clinical-and-practitioner-academic-programme.htm>

1. The ICA internship programme basics

This programme will provide an introduction to a range of concepts and approaches relating to applied health research aimed at supporting Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professionals (NMAHP) interns to:

- apply for an NIHR Pre-doctoral Clinical Academic Fellowship (PCAF)
- apply for an NIHR Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship (CDRF)
- work within a research team that will submit a proposal for funding

The programme is designed to be fully aligned with the intern's current clinical practice and will include an NMAHP cohort of six interns over a three-year period (2021/22 – 2023/24) from across the region.

The Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire region and Frimley ICS ICA internships will be delivered through the Oxford Institute of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Research (OxINMAHR), Faculty of Health and Life Sciences at Oxford Brookes University.

The funding also covers 100 hours of salary backfill per intern to release the interns from their employing NHS Trust. The intern is required to negotiate the 100 hours of "release time" with their clinical line manager (OBU to assist as appropriate).

2. Oxford Brookes programme delivery

2.1 The programme will include:

- Personal support from an academic supervisor
- Enrolment in an existing taught research methods module
- Directed reading and support.
- Integration into a dedicated research active environment
- Access to computer, relevant virtual learning platforms and library facilities
- Opportunity to become part of a vibrant research community

2.2 Induction Programme

- The OxINMAHR internship programme manager will be responsible for the induction programme and be the main point of contact throughout the internship.
- Outline of the Educational Learning Package (the programme, taught module, expectations, academic and NHS mentorship).
- Seminars on how to use library resources, an introduction to the Virtual Learning Platform (VLP) 'Moodle', access to other online resources including Turnitin

2.3 Mentorship and supervision

- The aim of the mentorship is to support and guide the intern to formulate a research project for PCAF or CDRF fellowship (or grant award) application
- OxINMAHR will allocate an academic mentor that is most suited to the needs of the intern.
- The academic mentor will meet monthly (virtual) with the intern to discuss research activity and tailored requirements

- The academic mentor will receive and comment on research project development and PCAF/CDRF Fellowship application (or grant funding application) in a timely and appropriate manner
- The intern will be encouraged to identify their own Trust/ NHS clinical mentor (OBU will assist if required/appropriate)

2.4 Enrolment in existing Research Module

- Registration on an appropriate applied research methods module at Brookes

2.5 Research Project Development

- Interns will develop a research project idea about improvements in patient care, patient outcomes and/or NHS service delivery.
- The project may be based on an aspect of a study for an existing project that the mentor(s) may already be involved in.

2.6 Time expectations for the intern and backfill expectations

- The internship is planned to last 9 months at an average of 4-6 hours per week (to include research module, mentorship supervision, workshop/seminar attendance and other study time).
- The funding will include cover for 100 hours of salary backfill costs paid to the host/employing NHS Trust.
- The intern will negotiate the specific logistics of the 100 hours of “release time” with their clinical line manager.

2.7 Research environment and opportunities

- Access to a wide variety of research group seminars and discussion forums
- Access to OBU computer, relevant virtual learning platforms and library facilities

2.8 Programme expectations

By the end of the programme, each intern will have:

- developed awareness, understanding and capacity in the specific roles and responsibilities of a clinical health-related researcher and enhanced understanding of how to effectively participate in these roles and responsibilities.
- gained an understanding of the nature of Universities and Hospital Trusts as places of research and their associated values, routines and cultures.
- further developed and refined skills and professional capacity for research in an interest area, including those skills involved in research development, design and implementation.
- demonstrated an ability to plan, implement, and evaluate effective research projects within the NHS setting.
- demonstrated an ability to assess and report on research outcomes.
- demonstrated an understanding of professional and ethical practice.
- developed an awareness of other people in the research community whose work supports the researcher, and their roles and responsibilities, for example, R&D departments, Faculty academic managers and Financial budget managers.

3. Applications

3.1 Criteria for applicants

To be eligible for one of these awards you will need to provide evidence that you have the following:

1. Current registration with one of the following [ICA approved regulatory bodies](#)
2. A contract of employment with a provider of NHS care in Berkshire, Oxfordshire, or Buckinghamshire region or Frimley ICS.
3. Be substantially employed in a clinical capacity within the NHS
4. At least one (1) year's post-registration clinical experience
5. Hold a minimum academic qualification of BSc/BA at 2.1
6. Support from your employer (clinical line manager) to undertake the internship and an identified work-based mentor for additional support in the work environment.
7. A keen interest and clear suitability for a research focused clinical academic career and have identified a research area of interest that clearly benefits patients/service users
8. Mentorship from a named clinical supervisor (identified by you)
9. The opportunity to develop links with an existing clinical research team (identified by you).
10. Ability to complete the internship in a timely manner

These elements are designed to help you to progress a research support network. You will have the opportunity to develop a bespoke programme tailored to suit your specific needs and aspirations with your identified clinical academic supervisor.

In addition, you will be able to participate in other activities which may include working with current researchers, visiting clinical research facilities, and/or attending research presentations and seminars.

3.2 Areas of research priority

Applications are particularly welcomed where the focus of the proposed research is in the following HEE priority areas:

- Improving the experience of people with dementia
- Primary and community care
- Compassionate care and the NHS Constitution
- Urgent & Emergency care
- Care for people with Intellectual Disabilities
- Improving Patient Safety
- Technology Enhanced Learning

3.3 How to apply

Prior to submitting an application, it is recommended that applicants contact their line manager and research lead within their NHS Trust to discuss applying for this award and investigate what support and help is available within the organisation.

Please submit a completed checklist (see Appendix 1) and all corresponding documentation to: zdavey@brookes.ac.uk by 5:00 pm on 29th April 2022.

Key Dates

Closing date for applications:	Friday 29 th April 2022 by 5:00 pm
Interviews:	Friday 20 th May 2022
Award period:	September 2022- May 2023

Visit the OxINMAHR website: www.brookes.ac.uk/oxinmahr/

Appendix 1: Internship Award – Checklist

Name:	
Area of clinical academic interest:	
Contact details:	E. T.

Criteria	Evidence submitted (yes/no)
1. Registration with an appropriate UK regulatory and professional body Regulatory/professional body: Registration number:	
2. Curriculum Vitae confirming the following; a) Substantial employment with a provider of NHS care in Berkshire, Oxfordshire, or Buckinghamshire region or Frimley ICS. b) Minimum of one year's practice post registration	
3. Cover letter (on headed paper) including; a) Reason for applying for the internship and capability to continue on a clinical academic career pathway b) An overview of the benefits and learning which will be gained by undertaking the 9 month internship c) Understanding of how clinical practice and research can improve the quality of patient care d) Outcomes that will be achieved by the end of the internship and how these address team/service clinical priorities and needs (as discussed with your line manager).	
4. Letter of support from current employer (on headed paper)	

I can confirm that I meet the criteria for an ICA Internship and I have submitted all of the evidence described above;

Signed:

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Date:

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