

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH
SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL CARE RESEARCH**

**Call for Applicants for Master's Internship Awards
in Adult Social Care Research**

April 2020

The NIHR School for Social Care Research (NIHR SSCR) invites applications for student internships to support individuals undertaking a Master's degree to develop their career in adult social care (ASC) research in England. Awards will be made to support individuals to undertake their dissertation at an NIHR SSCR Core Member university.

This is part of NIHR SSCR's ongoing commitment to build research capacity in adult social care.

1. Background

Launched in May 2009, NIHR SSCR is funded by the National Institute for Health Research until April 2024. NIHR SSCR works to develop the evidence base for adult social care practice in England by commissioning and conducting high-quality research. We are developing a programme to build research capacity in adult social care in England supported by the Department of Health and Social Care and NIHR Academy.

Over the last 10 years, the School has commissioned research studies, and numerous methods and scoping review papers across the scope of adult social care. Further information is available on our [website](#). The School's broad research themes are:

1. Adult social care needs (met and unmet), and prevention
2. Approaches to adult social care and social work practice, particularly new approaches: covering areas such as usefulness of international models and approaches; user-led, carer-led and other innovation, including digital and other new technologies
3. The adult social care workforce: covering areas such as development and retention of the existing workforce, including social workers and occupational therapists; new work roles and new ways of working; challenges to the workforce (diversity, quality, Brexit)
4. Care resources: covering areas such as eligibility; innovative approaches to funding; issues for self-funders; equality and value across self- and state-funded services; financial pressures facing older people and other adults needing support; supporting carers
5. Working with communities and other assets: covering areas such as asset-based working, social prescribing; community and individual capability; personalisation; interdependency
6. Care systems and markets: covering areas such as how local authorities manage volume and quality in local services/markets; market-shaping and the impact on providers and others; impact of major changes (e.g. legislation) to the system of care; the impact of coproduced service provision

7. Diversity, inequality and 'marginalised' communities: covering areas such as variations (including inequity) in accessing adult social care; promising practice and support for specific user groups; coproducing solutions to challenge inequality
8. Adult social care at the interface with other systems (e.g. integration and coordination): covering areas such as housing, criminal justice, hospital inpatient services, primary care, community mental health, employment settings.

We use a broad, inclusive description of adult social care, encompassing the wide range of care and support available to and used by adults; the diversity of services and service providers of adult social care; and care and support provided through and with unpaid care, communities, self-care and self-funded care. We are interested in all aspects of this plurality of care and support arrangements, and their development in the current context of adult social care in England. Areas of overlap and/or integration with other sectors also fall within our remit.

2. The requirement

We are seeking applications from talented individuals committed to developing a research career in adult social care practice in England by undertaking their Master's dissertation within one of our core member NIHR SSCR Universities supported by national experts in social care.

Applicants will need to be hosted by a Core Member university within NIHR SSCR (see Annex A) for their internship and discuss their application with the relevant Core Member lead in advance of submission, as well as their relevant Master's programme supervisor (which could be at another non-NIHR SSCR university). Applicants can email sscr@lse.ac.uk for guidance on the most appropriate NIHR SSCR Core Member to approach if required.

Requirements are as follows:

- Applicants must be in the process of undertaking a Masters' degree which requires the submission of a dissertation, which will be the focus of the internship, and must provide a clear development plan for the period of the internship
- In addition to submission of their dissertation - which should be made available to NIHR SSCR once it has been examined - applicants are required to produce an output for publication for NIHR SSCR; journal papers are encouraged. Applicants can set out their planned output as part of their application
- Applicants must have the right skills, experience and motivation to carry out their proposed internship, and intend to continue with a career in ASC research beyond the award
- Research topics should fit with NIHR SSCR's remit and priorities. Elements of comparative work with other UK countries may be considered, but the focus of the research capacity development is on England
- Dissertation supervisors must be suitably experienced to support the applicant and demonstrably committed to providing guidance to support them to develop their career beyond the internship
- NIHR SSCR Core Member leads must provide high-quality institutional support for the completion of the internship and guidance to support further career development

- The duration of the award is flexible to accommodate the timelines of individual applicants but should commence from late-May 2020 with a clear end point within 18 months of commencement.

Successful applicants are welcome to participate in the life of NIHR SSCR, including attending our annual conference.

3. Selection criteria

Applications will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- Strong individual applicant (in terms of education, skills and/or experience)
- Clear alignment of the proposed research topic with the remit of NIHR SSCR
- Clear development plan for the internship
- Clear end-point and objectives for the internship award
- A commitment to a research career in adult social care beyond the internship
- Demonstrable commitment to on-going support from the practice and academic institutions affiliated to the applicant including the NIHR SSCR core member organisation.
- Value for money.

4. Funding available

Funding is available for awards of up to £5,000 per applicant.

Applicants are required to set out how this funding will be used, which can include a stipend and research costs. If the funding will be used to provide a form of salary for the applicant, the host university and applicant will need to ensure this is allowable by the university at which they are registered for their Master's degree, and that relevant Right to Work checks are in place in advance of the internship.

The funding can be used to provide a stipend to the applicant.

NIHR SSCR does not fund supervision costs.

Funding will be routed through the host institution for the internship.

5. Application process

The deadline for full applications is **15.00 on Wednesday 13 May 2020**. Completed applications should be uploaded and submitted at <https://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/internship-awards-submission/>.

For queries about these awards please email sscr@lse.ac.uk.

NIHR SSCR Core Member universities can support more than one applicant, but applicants may only submit one application.

Declarations on the application form need to be signed by (a) applicant, (b) their supervisor, and (c) the NIHR SSCR Core Member lead. Electronic signatures are preferred; where the declarations are signed in hard copy, a scanned version of this page should be submitted alongside a PDF of the final application (scanned versions of the full PDF should not be submitted as they are not easily readable).

6. Commissioning process

All applications will be initially assessed to ensure that they are within the remit of this call, meet required criteria and that the form has been fully completed. All applications successfully passing this triage will be reviewed by the NIHR SSCR Executive Group and assessed by the Capacity-Building Management Team.

Applicants will be informed of the School's decision approximately a week after the deadline.

A contract for successful awards will be issued by LSE to the host NIHR SSCR institution on standard NIHR SSCR terms.

Annex A: NIHR SSCR Core Member Universities and Leads

University	Lead	Further information
LSE	Professor Martin Knapp Director, NIHR School for Social Care Research Professorial Research Fellow, Care Policy and Evaluation Centre London School of Economics and Political Science Email: m.knapp@lse.ac.uk	http://www.lse.ac.uk/cep
Birmingham	Professor Catherine Needham Professor of Public Policy and Public Management Associate Director, NIHR School for Social Care Research School of Social Policy University of Birmingham Email: c.needham.1@bham.ac.uk	https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/social-policy/departments/health-services-management-centre/index.aspx
Bristol	Professor David Abbott Professor of Social Policy Associate Director, NIHR School for Social Care Research University of Bristol Email: d.abbott@bristol.ac.uk	http://www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/
KCL	Professor Jill Manthorpe Director, NIHR Health & Social Care Workforce Research Unit Associate Director, NIHR School for Social Care Research King's College London Email: jill.manthorpe@kcl.ac.uk	https://www.kcl.ac.uk/scwru/index
Kent	Dr Karen Jones Director, Personal Social Services Research Unit Associate Director, NIHR School for Social Care Research University of Kent Email: k.c.jones@kent.ac.uk	https://www.pssru.ac.uk/ https://www.kent.ac.uk/tizard/
Manchester	Professor Catherine Robinson Director, Social Care and Society Associate Director, NIHR School for Social Care Research University of Manchester Email: catherine.robinson@manchester.ac.uk	https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/en/projects/social-care-and-society(5555f5a4-22f4-4ca0-90a1-e74139223fa2).html

York	Professor Yvonne Birks Co-Director, Social Policy Research Unit Deputy Director, NIHR School for Social Care Research University of York Email: yvonne.birks@york.ac.uk	https://www.york.ac.uk/spru/
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