

Job Description

**Internship - Dementia Research
(NIHR ARC North Thames)**

Grade & salary: 6, salary includes London allowance

Department: Primary Care and Population Health

Location: 1-19 Torrington Place, London

Reports to:

Study Principal Investigator *Dr. Claudio Di Lorito*

Context

National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) North Thames is offering an internship in dementia research, as part of a national NIHR ARC initiative to support people interested in developing a career in dementia research. This is an exciting opportunity to work closely with, and learn from, experienced dementia researchers in an academic research setting. Interns will have access to the programme of training and events offered by the ARC North Thames Academy, in addition to training opportunities provided by their host departments.

Applicants should have at least a BA/BSc in a social science degree (MA/MSc are preferable), an interest/experience in social care and dementia, and experience in qualitative research methods. The internship is available any time from 15 May 2025, working one-two days/week for approximately six months (or an alternative equivalent duration). The post will be based in the Research Department of Primary Care and Population Health and the intern is expected to work on site.

NIHR ARC North Thames

[NIHR ARC North Thames](#) is a partnership of over 40 organisations from across North Central and Northeast London, Essex, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. These organisations include leading universities, the NHS, councils, patients, communities, charities and industry who share a commitment to improving health and social care services, and people's health. Working together, we identify the key health and care problems facing organisations in our partnership, design innovative research in response and rapidly put findings into practice across our region and beyond.

Study Details: [Intern] (PI: Dr. Claudio Di Lorito).

People with dementia can live alone successfully even when they do not have support from family or friends. However, they can find it difficult to find out about, start using and continue to use social care services that might help them to live at home for as long as possible. As a result, they risk not getting the care that they need when they need it, experience safety issues in their homes, and have to move out of their homes sooner than expected.

This new study is entitled *Promoting uptake and continued use of social care services in people with dementia who live alone and have no informal support* (SoCeeD). It aims to identify examples of support that help people with dementia who live alone and have no support from family or friends to access and use social services. The study is ongoing (started June 2024). We are interviewing people from support services to find out how they helped and people with dementia who got that help to tell us about their experience. In doing so, we will find out what has worked and what can be improved. We will also speak to people with dementia who have not taken up social care services to understand why.

We will use this information to understand different types of support, what seems to work, what needs improving and what is not working. We will then write recommendations for support services about how to best help people who live alone and do not have support from family and friends to access and use social care services.

The postholder will be part of the study team and work closely with the PI in analysing interview data, writing-up findings for publications and preparing the final report, as well as other dissemination events.

Learning and development opportunity

The intern will gain:

- Qualitative analysis skills
- Academic writing skills (e.g., peer-review publications)
- Experience in working directly with the PI on dementia research
- Interpersonal and communication skills
- An opportunity to develop their own research ideas in this area.

Duties and responsibilities

- Conduct qualitative data analysis
- Contribute to writing reports, peer-reviewed publications, and other outputs
- Ensure all research management/approvals (e.g. ethical, governance, data sharing) are followed
- Ensure confidentiality on all matters and information obtained.

Other duties

- General administrative duties including setting-up meetings, preparing agendas and minute-taking
- Co-ordinate own work with others to avoid conflict or duplication
- The post-holder will actively follow UCL policies including Equal Opportunities and Race Equality policies
- To maintain an awareness and observation of Fire and Health & Safety Regulations
- Carrying out duties in a resource-efficient way and actively support UCL's Sustainability Strategy.

Person Specification

Note to applicant: copy and paste the following criteria into a "Statement in support of your application" and describe underneath each of the criteria how you meet it, giving examples. You will be scored on how you meet each of the criteria.

| Essential Criteria | Assessment method (Application/Interview) |
|---|--|
| Qualifications, experience and knowledge | |
| BA/BSc in a social sciences/related subject | Application |
| Experience in qualitative research methods | Application |
| Knowledge of UK adult social care system | Application/interview |
| Right to work in the UK | Application |
| Confident to work collaboratively, flexibly and effectively with colleagues | Application/interview |
| Skills and abilities | |
| Fluency in English and communication skills | Application/interview |

| Essential Criteria | Assessment method (Application/Interview) |
|---|--|
| Excellent interpersonal, communication and networking skills including being able to liaise effectively with people at all levels | Application/interview |
| Computer literate with well-developed IT skills (Office, email, internet) | Application |
| Experience in social care practice, delivery and/or commissioning | Application/interview |
| Recognise the importance of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in higher education/research | Application/interview |
| Proven ability to maintain high standards, prioritise competing demands and delivering to tight deadlines | Application/interview |
| Strong analytical and organisational skills | Application/interview |
| Desirable Criteria | |
| MA/MSc in the Social Sciences or related subject | Application |
| Experience of analysing qualitative data | Application/interview |
| Experience in dementia research or practice | Application/interview |
| | |

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Research Department of Primary Care and Population Health

The UCL Research Department of Primary Care and Population Health at UCL is part of the Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care and is co-led by Professor Greta Rait and Professor Kate Walters. We undertake world-leading research in primary care, addressing the management and prevention of disease in high-priority areas of health. We deliver high-quality teaching in primary care and population health in a range of health and community settings.

Mission:

- To undertake excellent research that is clinically relevant and impacts on the health of individuals and populations;
- To use our research, teaching and innovation to impact on health system improvement and service redesign;
- To work in partnership with people who use services, practitioners across the health and social care sectors, policy makers and other stakeholders relevant to increasing the impact of academic activities;
- To provide excellent teaching in primary care, population health and research methods;
- To strengthen the discipline of general practice through leadership in research, teaching and clinical practice;
- To foster professional development in all members to enable each individual to reach their full potential;

In order to do this we:

- Carry out all phases of clinical research from epidemiology and qualitative fieldwork through to intervention development, evaluation, implementation and translational research, as well as methodological research and development;
- Work in multi-disciplinary teams, bringing together clinicians, scientists, patients and public with a wide range of methodological skills and expertise;
- Foster excellent communication within the Department, across workgroups and disciplines, and with local, national and international colleagues and organisations;
- Foster a learning environment where students (MB BS, BSc, MSc, MD, PhD), researchers, teachers and administrators are all supported in learning and continuing professional development;
- Invest in the career development of all of our staff;
- Promote an open, friendly, diverse and inclusive working environment.

PCPH is a member of the prestigious NIHR School for Primary Care Research.

How to Apply

Please send a CV, details of at least two referees (one should be a recent line manager), plus covering letter clearly stating how you match the criteria, to arc.norththames@ucl.ac.uk by 30 April 2025.

If you have any informal queries about the post, please contact Dr. Claudio Di Lorito:
claudio.dilorito@ucl.ac.uk