**Dementia Research Assistant Internship**

**Background**

The [DEM-COMM programme](https://www.arc-wx.nihr.ac.uk/dem-comm-research-fellows) is funded by the National Institute of Health and Care Research and the Alzheimer's Society. This initiative, coordinated by ARC Wessex, supports new leaders in dementia research by bringing together diverse researchers for community-focused projects addressing critical gaps in evidence.

There are four DEM-COMM Fellows working within ARC-GM: Dr Jaheeda Gangannagaripalli, Dr Emma Elliott, Dr Sarah Kate Smith, Dr Sarah Fox. Information about their projects can be found [here](https://arc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/dem-comm-programme).

Internship opportunities are available to work with the DEM-COMM Fellows as Research Assistants based at [ARC-GM](https://arc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/).

The Intern should be:

* A graduate, currently employed by:
  + an organisation that delivers health or social care services or research in Greater Manchester
  + OR a Higher Education Institution in Greater Manchester.

The Internship would be part-time for 6-12 months. Please refer to the attached Person Specification for more information.

Applicants from all sections of the community regardless of age, sex, gender, gender expression, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and transgender status are welcomed. All appointments are made on merit.

**Projects**

There are several projects ongoing in the ARC-GM DEM-COMM programme. More information about the projects can be found in **Appendix 1**. The Intern will be able to express a preference for which projects and activities they would like to work on. However, depending in immediacy and need, Interns may be requested to help with certain activities outside of these preferred areas. Applicants should indicate their interests/preferences in the application form.

Areas of focus for each project are indicated below:

* KOKU-LITE: A digital program to prevent falls and improve well-being in people living with dementia in the community: the KOKU-LITE feasibility Randomised Controlled Trial: *Study recruitment, data collection, analysis.*
* Exploring the experience of acute hospitalisation for people living with dementia: A Qualitative Study: *Study recruitment, data collection, analysis and write-up.*
* Physical Activity and Dementia Prevention: *Stakeholder engagement and data analysis.*
* Meaningful moment of everyday connection: *Study dissemination and development of future research ideas.*

**Training opportunities**

Training will be provided that is tailored to the Intern’s interests, their learning needs and project requirements. Both formal training courses and informal training will be provided, and the Intern will have access to a training budget.

Examples of relevant courses are listed below, but applicants are encouraged to take an active role in seeking out relevant training opportunities.

1. [Good Clinical Practice (NIHR)](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/career-development/clinical-research-courses-and-support/good-clinical-practice)
2. [Qualitative research methods](https://www.methods.manchester.ac.uk/resources/qualitative-methods/)
3. [Introduction to Qualitative Data Analysis using NVivo](https://events.manchester.ac.uk/event/event:pd0-ipy4ovkz-dunhbb/short-course-nvivo-for-qualitative-data-and-corpus-analysis-introductory)
4. [Data analysis skills](https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/q-step/training/online-training/)

**Person Specification**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| **Qualifications** | * Undergraduate degree in psychology, health sciences, social sciences, health or social care professionals (e.g., medical, nursing, allied healthcare professionals) | * Postgraduate level qualification |
| **Experience and interest** | * Working with patient/client populations in a clinical or research setting * Involved in previous research (including undergraduate/postgraduate research projects) * Interest in dementia research and the projects listed | * Working with vulnerable populations * Working with people with dementia * Experience of writing and publishing research papers |
| **Skills** | * Strong IT skills * Excellent written and oral communication skills | * Experience of conducting qualitative interviews, coding and analysis |
| **Other** | * Be willing to undertake required training * Be willing to travel across Greater Manchester for project activities (travel expenses covered) |  |

**Appendix 1: Projects**

1. [**KOKU-LITE: A digital program to prevent falls and improve well-being in people living with dementia in the community: the KOKU-LITE feasibility Randomised Controlled Trial**](https://arc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/projects/Development-and-evaluation-of-a-digital-health-programme-for-falls-prevention) **(led by Dr** [**Jaheeda Gangannagaripalli**](https://arc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/the-team?s=Jaheeda+Gangannagaripalli)**):**

Intern will support the DEM-COMM Fellow with the following tasks:

* Helping with recruitment (including consent) of people living with dementia, and carers of people living with dementia.
* Data collection including completing assessments and questionnaires
* Data entry of the collected data
* Data analysis of the quantitative data (using SPSS or a relevant software)
* Conducting/moderating semi-structured interviews and/or focus groups with people living with dementia and health and social care professionals
* Analysing qualitative data using NVivo

1. [**Exploring the experience of acute hospitalisation for people living with dementia: A Qualitative Study**](https://arc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/projects/deconditioning-in-hospitalised-patients-with-dementia) **(led by** [**Dr Emma Elliott**](https://research.manchester.ac.uk/en/persons/emma-elliott)**):**

* Helping with recruitment (including consent) of people living with dementia, carers and healthcare professionals
* Conducting semi-structured interviews
* Coding transcripts and supporting with qualitative analysis
* Supporting write up of findings

1. [**Physical Activity and Dementia Prevention**](https://arc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/projects/physical-activity-and-dementia) **(led by** [**Dr Sarah Kate Smith**](https://arc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/the-team?s=sarah+smith)**):**

Following results from a systematic review, the Intern would support research tasks including

* Design and development of topic guides informed by review results to support stakeholder workshops
* Recruitment to workshops, enabled by established networks, to include health professionals, cognitively healthy adults, facilitated by the DEM-COMM Fellow
* Stakeholder engagement in co-design workshops to develop potential feasibility study
* Qualitative, thematic analysis to develop emerging themes to inform the design of a feasibility study

1. [**Meaningful moment of everyday connection**](https://arc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/projects/Meaningful-moments-of-connection) **(led by** [**Dr Sarah Fox**](https://arc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/the-team?s=sarah+fox)**):**

Data collection and analysis has been completed for this project however there will be opportunities to develop creative methods of dissemination, work with public contributors, write policy documents and support upcoming grant applications:

* Project dissemination: working with participants to tell their stories in an accessible manner
* Working with artists to develop creative outputs from project results
* Researching and developing policy documents
* Providing research support for grant applications: this may include literature searches/reviews, pilot work testing and setting up bio-sensor equipment, quantitative analysis of biosensor data.

Training will be provided for any required research tasks.