



Windsor Fellowship Prostate Cancer UK Internship Programme

Internship information pack

Internship placement information

Host institution:

King's College London

Host laboratory address:

TOUR Office, Floor 3, Bermondsey Wing
Guy's Hospital
St Thomas Street, London, SE1 9RT

Host lead and joint lead researchers:

Prof Mieke Van Hemelrijck & Dr Luke Mahoney

Project title:

Investigating equity in treatment selection for prostate cancer between Black men and other ethnic groups

Research Project summary:

The project will investigate whether there are ethnic differences in treatment selection among men diagnosed with localised prostate cancer at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust. Black men are at greater risk of developing prostate cancer, yet evidence regarding treatment patterns and potential disparities in care within contemporary UK clinical practice remains limited. This project will build on the applicant team's ongoing research in prostate cancer epidemiology, health inequalities and real-world evidence (RWE). The work of this project will also align with the analytical activities of ReIMAGINE[Life], a larger PCUK funded project. This project aligns with Prostate Cancer UK's commitment to reducing inequalities in prostate cancer outcomes, improving understanding of factors that influence care pathways for diverse populations and addressing PCUK's second mission of the Black Health Equity Strategy to eradicate treatment disparity.

Hypothesis: after accounting for clinical and demographic characteristics, treatment selection differs between Black men and other ethnic groups.

Aims:

- Describe the demographic and clinical characteristics of men diagnosed with localised prostate cancer.
- Compare treatment pathways across ethnic groups.
- Identify factors associated with treatment selection using regression analyses.
- Generate hypotheses for future research into equity in prostate cancer care.

Expected results/outputs:

The project is expected to generate a report and conference-style presentation, with potential to contribute to a future peer-reviewed publication. The intern will gain practical experience in epidemiology, real-world data analysis, statistical programming in R, regression modelling, scientific writing and research communication, providing strong preparation and confidence for postgraduate research and future careers in cancer research.

What skills, techniques and/or methods will you develop during the project:

Through this project, the intern will gain a broad introduction to epidemiological research and the use of real-world data to address clinically relevant questions in prostate cancer research. They will develop an understanding of key epidemiological concepts, including formulation of a research question, study design, sources of bias, confounding, outcome assessment, and the interpretation of research findings. The intern will be introduced to the development of a statistical analysis plan, providing insight into how research questions are translated into robust and reproducible analytical approaches. This will include understanding variable selection, defining outcomes and exposures, and planning statistical analyses prior to undertaking research.

A major component of the internship will focus on developing practical data science and statistical programming skills using R. The intern will gain experience working with large real-world datasets, including data cleaning, quality checks, data management, and exploratory analyses. They will learn how to perform and interpret univariable and multivariable statistical analyses, including linear and logistic regression models.

Finally, the intern will develop scientific communication skills through participation in manuscript preparation and presenting findings. They will gain experience interpreting results, presenting findings, and contributing to the development of research outputs, providing valuable preparation for future postgraduate study and research careers.

What induction, training, support and guidance will be provided to you:

The intern will receive structured scientific, professional and pastoral support throughout the programme. Dr Luke Mahoney will meet with the intern weekly in dedicated 1:1 meetings and fortnightly meetings with both Dr Mahoney and Professor Mieke Van Hemelrijck will provide access to broader scientific expertise, strategic guidance and career advice.

At the start of the placement, the intern will undertake a comprehensive induction covering the project aims, data governance and security requirements, research integrity, departmental procedures, and available institutional resources. They will also be introduced to key members of the wider research environment.

Career development will be a central component of the internship. Dr Mahoney will provide guidance on postgraduate study and research careers, drawing on his own experiences of completing both an MSc and PhD. Discussions will include MSc and PhD application processes, identifying suitable research opportunities, funding routes, selecting programmes that align with career goals, and first-hand perspectives on pursuing doctoral training and a career in academia.

The intern will be encouraged to build networks across the Real-World Evidence and wider research team, including interactions with PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and other early career researchers. Opportunities will be provided to engage with patient-facing clinical trials teams and clinician researchers based at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, offering insights into translational and clinical research careers.

To further broaden their perspective, the intern will be supported to attend relevant faculty seminars, conferences, journal clubs and research talks. These opportunities will help them develop professional networks, gain exposure to a range of career pathways, and access resources that will support their future progression into postgraduate research and beyond.

Can the project/internship be completed part-time:

Yes

Can host institution provide accommodation for the duration of the internship programme:

No

Stipend offer for this internship:

'London Real Living Wage' (£14.80/hour) for 35 hours/week - a stipend of £4,144 over 8 weeks.

Internship placement requirements

Eligibility criteria:

To be eligible for the internship, you must meet the following criteria:

- Must be in your penultimate or final year of undergraduate study, or a graduate who has yet to, but wants to pursue a MSc and/or PhD and a career in prostate cancer research.
- Must be currently studying towards, or hold, a relevant STEM undergraduate degree in the UK. Graduates must have received a minimum 2:2 grade.
- Must be a permanent resident in the UK, be eligible for home fee status and not have any restriction on their right to work in the UK.
- Must self-identify as being from a Black background, including a mixed background, for example: Black British, Black Welsh, Black African, Black Caribbean, Black Other and Mixed Black background.
- Must be a British citizen and have 'Home' tuition fee status.
- Must be free to attend a laboratory placement between July and August 2027.

STEM undergraduate degrees that would be suitable for an intern matched with this project/placement to hold or be undertaking:

Biomedical studies, population health sciences, mathematics, statistics, data science.

Interview and recruitment processes for this placement:

Following matching by Windsor Fellowship, selected candidates will be invited to an informal in-person interview (or online if they are not able to attend in person) with Professor Mieke Van Hemelrijck and Dr Luke Mahoney. The interview will be used to introduce the project, learn more about the applicant's interests and career aspirations, and assess how we can best support their development throughout the placement.

No technical knowledge or prior research experience will be required. We do not plan to use formal pre-interview assessments. However, applicants will be asked in advance to reflect on their interest in the project area and what they hope to gain from the internship. This reflection will help inform the discussion and allow us to tailor the placement to the intern's learning objectives.

Interviews will be conducted using a semi-structured format, with questions exploring the applicant's motivation for pursuing research, interest in prostate cancer and health

equality, epidemiology and real-world data research, previous academic or extracurricular experiences, and longer-term career goals. There will also be an opportunity for candidates to ask questions about the project, research environment and support available during the placement.

We anticipate interviews taking place during January 2027, following the matching process. Decisions will be communicated promptly thereafter to enable successful candidates to prepare for the internship. Once confirmed, the successful intern will be contacted to arrange onboarding activities and discuss any specific learning, accessibility or support requirements ahead of the placement.

Internship additional information

Relocation

If you are required to relocate to undertake this internship, you may be eligible to claim relocation costs. Your commute must exceed 1.5 hours each way and you must demonstrate that daily commuting is impractical due to time, cost, or transport availability.

Eligible relocation costs:

Category	Amount over 8-week placement
Accommodation	£1,800
Travel	£100
Moving/setup	£150
Local transport	£160
Total	£2,210

Requirements for requesting relocation costs:

Proof of Expenses - Reimbursement requirements: Receipts for accommodation, travel, or moving costs. Signed lease or booking confirmation.

Type of Costs Covered - Usual eligible costs: Temporary accommodation (short-term rental, student housing); Travel to and from the internship location (start/end of program); local transport. Not usually covered: Food and daily living expenses; Luxury accommodation upgrades; Costs without receipts

Tax Considerations - In some cases, relocation support may be treated as taxable income. This can apply to lump sum payments or un-evidenced payments.

Please note in your application if you require relocation costs for a placement you are applying for. Please note, there is only budget for a finite number of relocation costs, so not all requests can be accepted.

Project-external development opportunities and support

As part of this internship, the Windsor Fellowship and Prostate Cancer UK will offer the following development opportunities and support:

- The Windsor Fellowship will provide pastoral support in personal and professional development throughout the duration of the internship.

- Internship Programme alumni will be enrolled onto Prostate Cancer UK's [Researcher Mentoring Scheme](#).
- Alumni will be invited to Prostate Cancer UK researcher events and conferences.
- Interns will be supported by a Prostate Cancer UK grant manager before and throughout the duration of the internship.
- Prostate Cancer UK will provide interns with support and guidance in finding postgraduate opportunities (e.g. PhD studentships).

Code of conduct

1. Interns are expected to abide by the host organisation's employee manual, code of conduct, or similar standards (including dress code, where applicable) that apply to interns and/or employees at the site.
2. Interns must act in a professional and ethical manner including being punctual, dressing appropriately, fulfilling commitments, meeting deadlines, and maintaining a cooperative attitude.
3. Interns understand that permissible absences from the internship site include illness and serious circumstances, and that they will notify their host institution in a timely manner should these situations occur.
4. Interns must maintain confidentiality of any information gained regarding the host organisation's clients, projects, work, and personnel. Additionally, interns will respect copyright laws and intellectual property rights.
5. Interns understand that information about the host organisation should not be broadcast in public spaces, including online platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, X, blogs, websites, or message boards without expressed written authorisation of the host institution.
6. Interns will seek feedback from lead applicant(s), accept suggestions and constructive criticism, and strive to improve performance.
7. Interns must immediately report to the host institution or Prostate Cancer UK with any concerns about an internship placement, including requests to engage in unethical or illegal activities, exposure to sexual harassment, discrimination or unsafe situations, or any other circumstances that create an uncomfortable environment for the intern.

Interns recognise that the host institution and/or employer have the right to terminate the internship experience at any time if it is deemed by Prostate Cancer UK or the host institution that the intern has violated the code of conduct or otherwise negatively compromised the internship programme and/or host organisation.