NHS internship scheme
Introducing Tomorrow’s Talent to the NHS Today
Overview

Professor Fiona Ross CBE

The Health Innovation Network’s (HIN) Non-Clinical Internships scheme offers new graduates/students a great opportunity for work whilst forging a vital source of new talent for the National Health Service.

The NHS is the fifth largest employer in the world and has an important role to play in supporting diversity in its workforce. However, gaining access to jobs within health care organisations can be difficult for individuals who are not ‘in the know’ or lack access to networks. The Internship programme overcomes challenges faced by the NHS providers (our Members) in knowing who to talk to and how to tap into new talent from local universities for vital support roles behind the “front line.”

The Health Innovation Network’s NHS internship scheme offers the chance for graduates to connect with job opportunities in the NHS. The Health innovation Network acts as a broker between the NHS and the universities taking care of the entire process – from identifying high calibre candidates through to handling the vetting and selection process, all free of charge.

The Health Innovation Network’s (HIN) NHS internship scheme offers new graduates and current students an opportunity to work on support roles for South London employers who are members of the Health Innovation Network. For our recruiters it is a cost effective way of recruiting new talent and promoting diversity.

This guide has been designed to answer all your questions whether you’re a Member looking for a way to connect with new talent or a graduate wanting to take advantage of the wealth of opportunity offered by the NHS in areas such as communication, business development, finance or human resources etc.

If you want to know more about our internship scheme please contact one of the members of our team. We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,

Professor Fiona Ross CBE
Kingston University and St George’s, University of London
Senior Responsible Officer (Education) Health Innovation Network
About the Health Innovation Network
The Health Innovation Network is the Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) for South London, one of 15 AHSNs across England.

We are a membership organisation focused on spread and adoption of lasting system-wide improvements in patient and population health, strengthening relationships and capitalising on teaching and research strengths across South London.

Our work programmes focus on health priorities across our clinical areas – diabetes, dementia, musculoskeletal, alcohol and cancer. Our cross-cutting innovation themes – patient experience, patient safety, technology & information, education & training and wealth creation, support all our work programmes to deliver service improvement to all our members, including acute, specialist, community and mental health NHS trusts, primary care, clinical commissioning groups as well as social care partners.

We work closely with industry, academia and patients and the public to facilitate system wide change and improvement.

To find out more about us, click here.
About the Health Innovation Network

NHS internship scheme

The NHS internship scheme offers students and graduates salaried internships across degree disciplines from accounting, business studies and marketing to psychology and law. The internships range from one-day per week to full-time one year positions, with the potential for a permanent role.

The scheme aims to create non-clinical employment pathways for students between local universities and NHS bodies in South London.

The benefits of the internship programme include reducing graduate unemployment in South London, raising ambition, contributing to a stable local economy that can innovate and create wealth, and offer savings for a financially challenged NHS by creating access to new talent.
Discover who is behind the Health Innovation Network’s NHS internship scheme:

**Fiona Ross**  
Senior Responsible Officer  
Fiona is a part-time Senior Responsible Officer at the Health Innovation Network, leading education and training. She has worked in South London throughout her career and has a background in higher education senior management and research. Outside the Health Innovation Network, she has a portfolio of roles including working for the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education as Director of Research.

> The Health Innovation Network is a great incubator for ideas that shift the status quo. The internship programme links the NHS to our fantastic universities in South London and opens a new route into a wealth of non-clinical jobs.

**Louise Brennan**  
NHS Internship Programme Manager  
Louise is the Programme Manager for the NHS Internship programme. Louise has managed a range of education and skills programmes, including a tech internship programme based in South East London.

> I am delighted to be helping talented career starters make their first steps into the NHS, where there is so much potential for career progression while making a real difference to people’s lives.

**Palvasha Zia**  
Project Support Officer  
Palvasha is the Project Support Officer at the Health Innovation Network for education and training. She has a background of a degree in Psychology. Outside the Health Innovation Network, she is studying towards her Masters in Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy at Cambridge University.

> You will enjoy many benefits when taking on one of our interns, they are enthusiastic and will be ideally suited to your organisations requirements with a range of skills from various degree backgrounds. There’s also the added bonus of making them permanent if you would like, at the end of their internship!
Benefits
Why an Internship?

Why become an NHS intern?

- Develop you professionally and personally within a world-class public organisation
- You will enjoy a paid internship at London Living Wage, that will suit and complement your development needs
- You will receive mentoring and training from leaders in your chosen field while creating an invaluable network of contacts
- The programme will offer experience in vital roles behind the clinical frontline in the health and social care
- Make a great first impression with one of the largest employers in Europe
- The internship will develop your CV to increase your chances for future employment
What are the Benefits of an Internship?

The purpose of the Health Innovation Network’s internship scheme is to harness talent from local universities for the benefit of the Health and Social Care sector.

The NHS internship scheme offers salaried internships, which will suit graduates from accounting, business studies, communications, media, marketing, psychology, law and so much more.

Benefits for you:

- Provide graduate level employment in South London, with the potential for a permanent role
- Paid salary of a minimum of London Living Wage
- To improve employability by gaining valuable experience to put on your CV
- The Health Innovation Network’s internship is a great way to meet people and develop a network in the NHS
- Provides you with an opportunity to gain hands on experience and training
- Raising your ambition and allowing you to get “behind the scenes” insight into health and social care sector.
Case Studies

View the case studies to uncover how the Health Innovation Network's NHS internship scheme has benefited three of its Members:

Case study Tukiya

“The internship allowed me to realise my strengths in new areas of work such as data analysis and develop new skills in event management and website maintenance. I have really developed personally and professionally as a result of my internship.”

My Background
I finished university in summer 2014 and wanted to explore opportunities in the NHS.

What attracted me to them
I was attracted to The Health Innovation Network because of how unique the organisation is. Their primary objective is to share best practice and encourage spread and adoption of innovation and technology with NHS, industry and small businesses so that the patient can benefit. The workplace is made up of people from a variety of backgrounds including entrepreneurs, clinicians, academics and third sector workers, which formed a great place to work and develop my intrapersonal skills.

My time at the Health Innovation Network
I was given responsibility within my first few days and was assigned a range of interesting projects to complete. I worked in communications, patient safety, programme development and informatics. This internship allowed me to realise my strengths in new areas of work, such as data analysis and develop new skills as event management and website maintenance. I have developed both personally and professionally as a result of my internship at the Health Innovation Network.

Challenges
My main challenge was adapting to working in an office however I quickly adapted to this new working environment. Initially I was worried about what career decisions to make once my internship ended. However, I set work and career objectives with my manager and I was provided with extra training and shadowing opportunities to help me achieve these objectives. I have now successfully secured a job in a pharmaceutical company.

I thoroughly encourage any graduates and undergraduates to do an internship as they will get a chance to learn in a supportive environment, make vital connections and decide what career steps to make.

Advice to potential interns
I thoroughly encourage any graduates and undergraduates to do an internship as they will get a chance to learn in a supportive environment, make vital connections and decide what career steps to make.

Interns should Immerse themselves in every aspect of the internship and do not be afraid to new out new areas of work.
NHS paid internship
NHS Intern scheme promotes London Living Wage

The Health Innovation Network believes that its internship scheme is an efficient and cost-effective method for employers to recruit new skills and promote diversity in their workforce, at the London Living Wage.

**It is an approach that will benefit you whilst saving money for the employer.**

- Enables you to offer your unique skills and abilities without the need to worry financially about committing to the organisation
- Gives you the opportunity to provide for yourself and your family whilst taking on the internship
- The Health Innovation Network believes in the principle of promoting fair pay for a fair day's work
Process
Could you be an Intern?

Where

You will need to come from a higher education institution in South London. Currently participating in the Health Innovation Network’s NHS internship scheme are:

- Goldsmiths, University of London
- King’s College London
- Kingston University
- Roehampton University
- London South Bank University
- University of Greenwich
When

The Health innovation Network offers several internship types for you to choose from, ensuring they not only source the right talent but within the timeframe required by you:

**Graduate Internship**
– Full - or part-time internships for current graduates and post-graduates.

**Sandwich Year**
– Typically a year ‘out’ between years Two and Three of the degree, usually full-time.

**Summer vacations**
– June to September of each academic year.

**During term time**
– Typically a day per week in one or more of the three 10-week terms that make up the academic year.

How to Apply?

To join our internship programme please contact your University who will be able to guide you to the current roles available and links to the Application Form and Role Descriptions.

If you require further information about the internship programme please contact us.

University Contacts

- Goldsmiths, University of London
- King's College London
- Kingston University
- Roehampton University
- London South Bank University
- University of Greenwich
To discover more about the Health Innovation Network’s NHS internship scheme please contact the Education and Training team on: 020 7188 7188 ext. 57038 or email palvasha.zia@nhs.net