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The Florence Nightingale Foundation Research Scholarship Scheme: Supporting Clinical Research Internships in Nursing and Midwifery

Igniting leaders, fuelling potential.

The Florence Nightingale Foundation is pleased to announce the launch of our new Research Scholarships. This award scheme has been developed to support a number of research internships which will help build clinical research capacity in Nursing and Midwifery and strengthen the evidence base for professional practice.

Applications for the internships are welcomed from clinical nurses and midwives wishing to enhance their research knowledge and skills and pursue a clinical academic career by undertaking doctoral or post-doctoral level research in one of following practice related areas:

- ♥ The Management of Pain
- ♥ The Management of End of Life Care
- ♥ Enhancing Patient Safety

Successful Scholars will work closely with an established research team under the supervision of a Florence Nightingale Foundation Clinical Professor and with the support of the wider team and relevant collaborators. They will undertake an internship which will provide them with the opportunity to engage in a range of research activities linked to one of the projects described below. During their internship, Scholars will be expected to develop a robust clinical research proposal linked to the selected topic area for future doctoral or post-doctoral study and/or potential research fellowship funding.

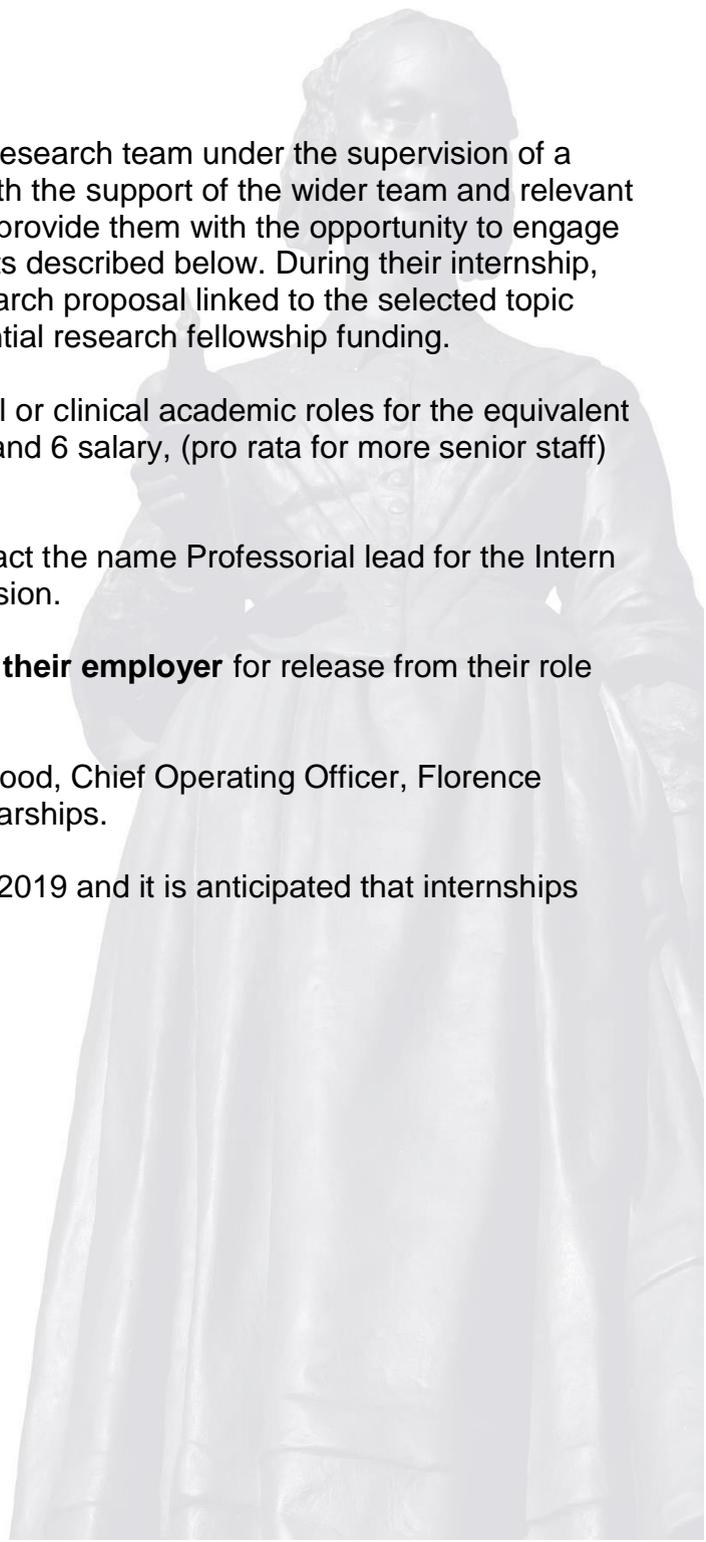
The Internship award will support release from their clinical or clinical academic roles for the equivalent of a minimum of 0.2FTE over 12 months based on NHS band 6 salary, (pro rata for more senior staff) with some potential support for essential travel.

Before submitting their application, applicants should contact the name Professorial lead for the Intern Projects that interest them and arrange an informal discussion.

They should also gain prior approval in principle from their employer for release from their role during the internship in the event that they are successful.

Applicants are welcome to contact Professor Greta Westwood, Chief Operating Officer, Florence Nightingale Foundation to discuss any aspect of the Scholarships.

The closing date for online applications is 30th September 2019 and it is anticipated that internships will commence in April 2020.



Theme A: The Management of Pain

INTERN PROJECT A1: Improving the identification of and response to post-surgical pain.

One of the major challenges facing clinicians when delivering effective pain management in hospital is its complexity. Good quality pain management is a complicated clinical process that cannot be adequately addressed by a single pain intensity score. The dynamic nature of pain means that trends and patterns of pain scores provide a better clinical picture of the patient's experience. More than 80% of patients who undergo surgery experience post-operative pain and approximately three quarters of those report this as moderate or severe. Less than half of surgical patients report adequate pain relief.

The Scholar working on this project may select from a range of activities including a qualitative exploration of routinely collected data available for pain management which could cover patient reported outcomes (PROs) such as pain intensity, interference with function, adverse effects, quality of life, satisfaction, quality of recovery, satisfaction with pain relief or the development of chronic pain. Other possible areas of focus include an exploration of the barriers and facilitators of using routine clinical pain data at the point of care or an examination of clinical outcomes such as complications, analgesic consumption, mortality, adverse events data and health economic outcomes such as costs of resource utilisation and interventions related to manpower, equipment, and disposables.

Applicants interested in this Internship should contact Professor Michelle Briggs:

Professor Michelle Briggs PhD RGN

Florence Nightingale Foundation Clinical Professor of Nursing

Division of Nursing, Midwifery & Social Work, University of Manchester and Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

Email: michelle.briggs@manchester.ac.uk

INTERN PROJECT A2: Identifying non-medical interventions for the promotion of comfort in adults with life-limiting conditions.

What are the range of non-medical interventions used by adults with life-limiting conditions, for the promotion of comfort?

The number of people living with life-limiting conditions is rising and more people are living active lives for many years despite having an incurable condition. This is in part due to the ageing population but also more people are living for longer with the health consequences of cancer treatment. Medications have limited benefit for the complex bio-psychosocial needs of this growing population. Non-medical interventions that promote improved function and quality of life are highly relevant.

Comfort care is a term commonly used in relation to Palliative or Hospice care, whereby holistic care is focused on symptom control, pain relief, and quality of life. People living with life-limiting conditions frequently experience discomfort and pain, and have reduced quality of life. They too may benefit from considering their needs in terms of comfort, rather than waiting towards the end of life. This research fits well into having a growing body of research looking at the needs of people living with life-limiting conditions, and in particular, those living with the consequences of cancer and its treatment.

The scholar working on this project will be involved in a range of activities, scoping review of the literature, and qualitative research methods. The scholar will be supported to design a protocol for the scoping review and small subsequent study, write NHS ethical and organisational approval applications as required, conduct this research, analyse the data and prepare a report for peer-reviewed publication. They will be working as part of a multi-disciplinary clinical research team and have the opportunity to observe clinical research practice within community and residential services of a hospice organisation.

This project would be appropriate for someone seeking:

- Appropriate experience to support a future higher degree application, or
- Part of a higher degree, or
- A post-doctoral project

Applicants interested in this Internship should contact Professor Candy McCabe:

Professor Candy McCabe

Florence Nightingale Foundation Clinical Professor of Nursing

University of the West of England, Bristol & Royal United Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases

Email: Candy.Mccabe@uwe.ac.uk

Theme B: The Management of End of Life Care

INTERN PROJECT B1: Dementia: personhood, legacy and end of life care.

Improving the implementation of psychosocial personhood- and legacy-promoting interventions in supporting the delivery of evidence-informed, person-centred dementia care in Scotland

Current health and social care policy and directives propose that maintaining personhood in dementia care is a moral and human rights imperative. Evidence reveals that psychosocial interventions which aim to preserve personhood and enabling the person with dementia to leave a legacy are important and valued by people living with dementia, their families and practitioners involved in their care. Although, evidence shows that such psychosocial interventions such as these can be effective, there is little understanding of what their active ingredients are, and if, how and why they work in different practice settings or contexts. As such, evidence on implementation work to embed interventions into practice is lacking. Globally, there is a need to develop strategic, multi-professional approaches in the development, implementation, integration and evaluation of person-centred interventions and practices across dementia care which is characterised by care delivery and transitions across diverse settings.

Thus, the proposed internship will build on the Clinical Professors previous research and implementation work to:

1. Understand the mechanisms to explain how and why psychosocial personhood- and legacy-promoting interventions 'work' for people living with dementia perspectives.
2. Scope and map existing provision of, and explore the perspectives of people with dementia, their families and formal caregivers on, the current implementation of psychosocial personhood- and legacy-promoting interventions for people with dementia and how they 'work' in practice across different care settings in Scotland.

The Scholar working on this project will be supported by an experienced team of researchers to contribute to the design of research protocols, apply for NHS and organisational ethical approval, collect and analyse data and prepare reports for publication. This project will also involve extensive liaison with patients and public involvement group members. The research lead (BJ) has established a patient and the public involvement panel in palliative and end of life care comprised of people currently living with life limiting illness and their carers which has been selected as an NIHR test bed for Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) work. There may also be opportunities to engage in preliminary data collection and analysis as well as implementation science methodologies and Europe wide co-ordination activities. The project may involve some travel.

Applicants interested in this Internship should contact Professor Bridget Johnston:

Professor Bridget Johnston

Florence Nightingale Foundation Clinical Professor of Nursing,
School of Medicine, Dentistry & Nursing,
College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences,
University of Glasgow and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Email: Bridget.Johnston@glasgow.ac.uk

INTERN PROJECT B2: Improving oral care in end of life care and older adults

Improving oral health in acute hospitals through the development of evidence-based 'practice triggers' which can be used to support the implementation of safe, high-quality oral health in acute hospitals.

Recent data has highlighted many incidences of poor oral care practices for older people and those with life limiting illnesses in hospitals across NHS Scotland. Previous research has shown that the provision of safe, high-quality oral care for older adults is undervalued and neglected, in favour of higher priority clinical responsibilities. Current practice can also differ from the 'ideal' proposed in local and national guidelines and protocols. Poor oral care can have a significant impact on the quality of life and wellbeing of older people and those with life limiting illness, and put them at risk of increased morbidity and mortality.

There has been limited previous research focusing on understanding how oral care for is implemented within clinical settings and the extent to which this aligns with local and national evidence-based guidance on the provision of safe and high-quality oral care. As well as, the challenges, barriers and facilitators to this in the context of practitioners' everyday practice in time- and resource-stretched clinical environments.

Aim: To explore and understand current practice in the assessment and management of oral health in older people and those with life limiting illnesses in acute clinical environments.

This project aims to understand more about how nurses and other clinical staff carry out oral care in acute hospitals. To do this, we will analyse existing documents such as guidelines on oral care, observe staff carrying out oral care in their daily practice, and speak to staff about what they currently do to offer good oral care, and what helps them, or makes it difficult for them, to do this in their day to day practice. We will codesign a digital solution 'practice trigger with staff patients and carers. We have codesign experts as part of team.

The Scholar working on this project will be supported by an experienced team of researchers to contribute to the design of research protocols, apply for NHS and organisational ethical approval, collect and analyse data and prepare reports for publication. This project will also involve extensive liaison with patients and public involvement group members. The research lead (PJ) has established a patient and the public involvement panel in palliative and end of life care comprised of people currently living with life limiting illness and their carers which has been selected as an NIHR test bed for PPI work. This project will suit an aspiring clinical academic and involves close liaison with clinical colleagues. There will be opportunities to engage in preliminary data collection and analysis.

Applicants interested in this Internship should contact Professor Bridget Johnston:

Professor Bridget Johnston

Florence Nightingale Foundation Clinical Professor of Nursing,
School of Medicine, Dentistry & Nursing,
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University of Glasgow and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
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INTERN PROJECT B3: Assessing reliability and validity of an outcome measure of quality and impact of palliative care nurse specialist interventions in the community

This project is closely linked to project C3 described above. The research lead (BJ) has developed a patient reported outcome measure (PROM) with colleagues to complement the Dignity Care Intervention. This outcome measure has been designed to assess the quality and impact of specialist nurses in palliative care in the community and there is now a need to undertake a robust evaluation of its reliability and validity.

The scholar working on this project will be supported by an experienced team of researchers to engage in a range of activities related to the testing of reliability and validity which could include contributing to the design of a research protocol, writing NHS ethical and organisational approval applications, data collection and analysis and the preparation of reports for publication. There may also be an opportunity to be involved in a systematic review of the literature. This project will involve liaising with the palliative care and end of life patient and public involvement group established for this area of research which has been selected as an NIHR test bed for PPI work.

Applicants interested in this Internship should contact Professor Bridget Johnston:

Professor Bridget Johnston

Florence Nightingale Foundation Clinical Professor of Nursing,
School of Medicine, Dentistry & Nursing,
College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences,
University of Glasgow and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Email: Bridget.Johnston@glasgow.ac.uk

INTERN PROJECT B4: Evaluating the effectiveness of nursing interventions for providing care at the end of life in critical care

Interventions in end-of-life care in critical care are poorly articulated and understood, and nurses may lead withdrawal of treatment at end of life, and institute end-of-life care. The impact of interventions from an efficacy or the experiential perspective of patients and families have been researched very little, with most existing research focussing on the nurse's experience. There is therefore an urgent need to undertake robust research to enhance the evidence base for practice. The need for emphasis in this area of processes of end-of-life care was also highlighted in a James Lind Alliance research priority exercise focused on critical care.

During their internship they will be provided with the opportunity to engage in a variety of research activities. These could include:

- An integrative review to explore evidence of current operational practices in relation to withdrawal of treatment at end of life in critical care
- A preliminary exploration of how nurses enhance family-centred care through qualitative interviews with bereaved families
- Undertaking a feasibility study of nurse-led interventions in end-of-life care in critical care related to, nurse-led timing of withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment.

Applicants interested in this internship should contact Professor Natalie Pattison:

Professor Natalie Pattison

Florence Nightingale Foundation Clinical Professor of Nursing
University of Hertfordshire and East & North Herts NHS Trust
Email: n.pattison@herts.ac.uk

INTERN PROJECT B5: What do families and patients identify as important to support transitions to end of life in acute deterioration and illness?

For acutely unwell patients at risk of rapid deterioration on the ward, rapid response teams, such as critical care outreach play an important role in treatment escalation decisions. Evidence suggests that there are many areas for improvement in ensuring person-centred decision-making, when the patients themselves lack capacity. There is therefore a need to investigate how to best support patients and families through these decisions in order to enhance the evidence base for effective practice in this important area of nursing care.

The Scholar working on this project will be supported by experienced researchers and will be given the opportunity to engage in a range of research activities. This might include:

- A meta-synthesis of qualitative evidence in decision-making during acute pathophysiological deterioration and transitions to end of life.
- Supporting a submission to a funding body to undertake a large scale co-production study

Applicants interested in this internship should contact Professor Natalie Pattison:

Professor Natalie Pattison

Florence Nightingale Foundation Clinical Professor of Nursing
University of Hertfordshire and East & North Herts NHS Trust
Email: n.pattison@herts.ac.uk

Theme C: Enhancing Patient Safety

INTERN PROJECT C1: A retrospective analysis of patient safety data and skill mix data from mental health inpatient units:

Guidance to inform safe and effective staffing levels in mental health services, particularly for those providing inpatient care, is extremely limited. Whilst there are clear indications that there is a link between nursing skill mix, safety and quality of care outcomes, there is a prescient need to gain greater understanding of the potential relationship between staffing levels, skill mix and patient safety in this important field.

The scholar working on this project will have the opportunity to become involved in the quantitative analysis of routinely collected data on patient safety submitted to the National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS) for a sub-sample of the 50 NHS mental health trusts in England over a 12-month period (2020-2021). These data will be compared to information submitted on staffing from each trust to NHS Improvement for the same period. They will be working with an established group of researchers and this internship will provide the opportunity to enhance their functional skills in data analytics, and in the identification of key research questions to inform future research priorities and rigorous research protocols.

Applicants interested in this Internship should contact Professor Fiona Nolan

Professor Fiona Nolan

Florence Nightingale Clinical Professor of Mental Health Nursing
School of Health and Social Care
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INTERN PROJECT C2: A mixed methods systematic review of literature related to staffing in mental health settings.

This project links closely with Project D1 described above. Guidance to inform safe and effective staffing of mental health services, particularly for those providing inpatient care, is extremely limited and there is a prescient need to gain greater understanding of the potential relationship between staffing levels, skill mix and patient safety in this field. Two linked projects are in development which will examine existing evidence and provide the basis for designing robust large scale research project investigate these important issues.

The Scholar working on this project will focus on the construction of a mixed methods systematic review of the literature related to staffing levels in mental health and patient safety. They will be supported to employ methodology developed by the Joanna Briggs Institute and will build on the recently conducted review of reviews by the National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health commissioned by NHS Improvement. The scholar will develop skills in data meta-analysis and synthesis from quantitative and qualitative studies and will work with an international team of nursing academics with expertise in the field.

Applicants interested in this Internship should contact Professor Fiona Nolan:

Professor Fiona Nolan

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Support us with our mission in continuing Florence's legacy.

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