

University College London - PRIMENT Clinical Trials Unit

The Fellowship Programme at UCL's Research Department of Primary Care and Population Health and PRIMENT Clinical Trials Unit will focus on the CSC theme of "Strengthening health systems and capacity". The Programme has been designed to increase international capacity amongst primary care health care professional on research methods specific to the evaluation of complex intervention and clinical trials, through structured teaching and individual supervision and mentorship. Teaching will encompass the development, design, conduct and analysis of complex interventions in primary care settings and will equip the fellow with the key skills needed for evaluating of complex interventions in primary care. Fellows will also be supervised and supported during the programme to apply the knowledge thus acquired to develop a research protocol on a topic in urgent need of evaluation within their own environment. This will form the basis of a future grant proposal for which future funding will be sought.

Eligibility

- 1) The fellow must be a professional working in the primary care health in their country.
- 2) The fellowship programme is suited to health professionals working in countries where primary health care is a priority for development.
- 3) Applicants from all eligible geographical areas will be considered.
- 4) The fellows' long term goal must be to focus on the evaluation of complex interventions and clinical trials within their own primary care settings.
- 5) The fellow must have a specific primary care health related intervention/treatment that they wish to evaluate scientifically in the future. This is an essential prerequisite.

Website

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/priment>

Proposed activity

Overview: The programme of activities planned for the Fellows whilst in the UK will include structured training on the evaluation of interventions, individual supervision and mentoring and a choice of activities on either the operational and/or analytical aspects of complex interventions.

3rd – 7th June 2019: Week 1 structured teaching: This will be delivered at the start of the Fellowship programme by a group of senior and mid-career primary care researchers from PRIMENT CTU. The aim of this part of the course is to provide the Fellow with the key research skills required to get started on the evaluation of complex interventions. This will be achieved through a series of small group sessions designed to provide the fellow with the theoretical understanding of: framing a focused research question on the evaluation of interventions; the steps involved in designing a complex intervention; the variety of study designs used to evaluate such interventions; the design and conduct of feasibility, pilot and the main randomised trials and the basic framework of a research protocol.

10th– 21st June 2019: Development of a Research Protocol: After this initial grounding, the fellow will work with their allocated supervisor on their pre-selected health question (N.B the selection of this health question is a pre-requisite for enrolling on to this programme) and they will develop the idea/s into a suitable research proposal. This will include running literature searches to ascertain the importance of the research question and to identify other work undertaken in the field, followed by framing a research hypothesis leading to the development of SMART aims and objectives and choosing the most appropriate study design to test their hypothesis.

24th-28th June 2019: Week 2 structured teaching - will focus on more detailed aspects of clinical trials and will include an: introduction to statistics and health economics as applied to clinical evaluations especially trials; an introduction to the evaluation of CTIMPs; the operational management of both CTIMPs and non CTIMPs and the critical appraisal of published studies on evaluation of interventions.

1st–19th July 2019: More detailed development of the research proposal: Following a week of more advanced training in trial methods, the fellow will further develop their research protocol under the supervision of their allocated supervisor and an additional allocated methodology supervisor (i.e. statistician and health economist). At the end of this period the fellow will be expected to have completed the first draft of a research protocol on the evaluation of an intervention.

22nd-26th July 2019: Final week: In the last week the fellow will be allowed to choose an area for further personal development. The choices available will include exposure to hands on data analysis, health economic evaluations or clinical trial management. The last day (26th July 2018) will be used to obtain feedback on fellowship programme and to establish longer term links with the fellow to ensure that the work done as a part of this programme is taken forward completed and eventually submitted for funding.

CSC theme

Priority Theme 1 Strengthening health systems and capacity

Further details

For more information on how to apply, please visit the CSC website:
<http://cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/commonwealth-professional-fellowships-information-for-candidates/>