

NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR)

Nursing Commercial Research Fellow – Job Description

Post: Part-time Nursing Commercial Research Fellow (0.4 or 0.5 FTE)

Duration: Fixed term up to 18 months (all posts to end by 31 March 2028)

Salary: Equivalent to current NHS/academic salary (pro rata; capped at £74,896)

Introduction

The NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) is launching a development fellowship scheme to build nursing leadership in commercial research across primary care and wider care settings. Fellows will gain skills in commercial research delivery, academic development, strategic systems working, and cross-sector collaboration.

A total of 11 Fellows will be appointed, hosted across SPCR member departments plus Newcastle and Birmingham. Fellows will join a supportive cohort with mentorship, supervision, shared learning, and access to SPCR training.

Purpose of the Role

To support national growth, capacity, and capability in commercial research across primary care and wider care settings by developing understanding of commercial research delivery, academic skills, partnerships with stakeholders, and insight into how nursing roles support commercial research.

Important: This is a development fellowship. Fellows will not be employed as research nurses or deliver a specific study but will develop strategic and academic capabilities.

Main Responsibilities

Developing Skills & Expertise:

- Build knowledge of commercial research delivery, regulatory pathways, commercial study set-up, and operational design.
- Develop insight into how nursing and nursing associate roles can support commercial research across wider care settings.
- Engage in training in academic skills including governance, appraisal, writing, dissemination, and stakeholder engagement.

Engagement & Collaboration

- Engage with nursing teams across primary care, community services, general practice, wider care settings, and secondary care.

- Work collaboratively with RDN Health & Care Directors (NMAHPs), NIHR Research Delivery Network, Commercial Research Delivery Centres, ICS/ICBs, industry partners, and academic departments.

Strategic Networking & Influence

- Act as a key link between academic teams and external stakeholders.
- Identify barriers and enablers for commercial research in wider care settings.
- Share learning and support spread of commercial research activity.

Cohort Participation

- Attend SPCR training, cohort meetings, and cross-site events.
- Travel locally, regionally, and nationally as required.
- Participate in reflective learning and peer support.

Research / Quality Improvement Project

- Fellows will complete a short research or QI project with support from their host department. A written impact statement is required at the end of the Fellowship.

Eligibility

- Any NMC-registered nurse working in primary care, community services, or wider care settings is eligible.
- Applicants not working in these settings must demonstrate ability to form partnerships rapidly.

Essential Requirements

- NMC-registered nurse.
- Experience in primary care, community, or wider care settings.
- Interest in research, service improvement, or innovation.
- Strong organisational, communication, and problem-solving skills.
- Ability to work independently and across boundaries.
- Willingness to travel.

Desirable Requirements

- Experience with NIHR Portfolio research.
- Understanding of UK research governance.
- Experience in audits, service evaluations, QI, or research.
- Knowledge of commercial research or digital/health tech.
- Experience in multidisciplinary collaboration.

Training, Support, and Development

Fellows receive SPCR training, supervision from academic mentors, peer support, national meetings and workshops, and exposure to commercial partners.

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the Fellowship, Fellows will understand the commercial research ecosystem, develop academic and strategic skills, build national networks, and be positioned for future research and leadership roles.