



White Rose Doctoral Training Partnership (WRDTP) Research in Practice (RinP) Placement Opportunity

The following information has been provided by the Host Organisation and outlines the placement opportunity available. Any queries about this placement should be addressed to the Host Organisation at the details provided below.

This opportunity is only accepting applications from Postgraduate Researchers with secured funding and authorisation from their doctoral funding body to undertake a three-month placement.

Host Details

Name of Host Organisation:	The University of Sheffield, School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering
Host location:	Sheffield
Brief description of the Host Organisation: <i>Please include a link to a website if you have one.</i>	The placement will be hosted by the University's Advanced Polymer Sintering Laboratory, based within the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering (https://sheffield.ac.uk/mac)
Host contact details:	<i>Any queries about this opportunity should be addressed to the Host Organisation:</i> Dr Candice Majewski, School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering, University of Sheffield, c.majewski@sheffield.ac.uk

Project Description

Placement role title: <i>e.g. Project Assistant</i>	Research Assistant - Understanding the role of personalised manufacturing in reducing healthcare inequalities
Background/ expected impact of the project:	Healthcare inequalities are described by NHS England as 'unfair and avoidable differences in health across the population, and between different groups within society'. Such differences may be related to specific characteristics such as ethnicity, sex or gender, socio-economic factors, location, or a number of other factors, and may affect the level of healthcare an individual can access, their consequent quality of life, and life expectancy. In addition, such inequalities have a negative effect

	on the economy; according to a report by the World Economic Forum and McKinsey & Company, closing the gender health gap alone could add \$1 trillion to the annual global economy by 2040. This is a complex and complicated issue, with no 'simple' fixes; this in turn means we must consider a wide range of potential solutions to address different aspects. One way in which we may be able to attack the problem is to make better use of improved digital scanning and manufacturing techniques, in particular through increasing development of personalised products and devices. In this placement, you will investigate the ways in which the design of medical devices and other products influences healthcare inequalities, and the potential impact personalised manufacturing could have in reducing them. There is an increasing body of evidence demonstrating negative effects of devices designed in 'standard' sizes (often based around data from a single demographic and therefore exclusive of large proportions of the population), uncomfortable products which prevent patients from using them despite clear clinical need, or devices which are not effective for patients with certain disabilities. Addressing these issues has the potential to help in the reduction of some of the healthcare inequalities experienced by individuals or groups. The overall aim of the role is to gain a comprehensive and detailed understanding of this area, and to identify the most important areas in which to direct current and future research in order to provide the greatest impact.
Outline of duties:	The main duties of this role will be to investigate the current landscape for personalised manufacturing, identifying examples of best practice, key barriers to further uptake, and unexplored areas with the most potential. This may be achieved through a combination of literature review, structured interviews and/or focus groups with stakeholders (e.g. researchers, clinicians, patients, regulators/policy makers) or any other creative approaches the researcher proposes.
Expected output(s)/ deliverable(s):	Written report summarising key findings and recommendations for priority areas, to be disseminated externally following the placement.
Support for Postgraduate Researcher:	The researcher will be supported through weekly meetings with the placement host, who will also provide background and contextual information as well as introductions to stakeholders and other relevant contacts. Meetings will take place remotely or in person, depending on the preferences and location of the researcher.

Skills and experience required for the role:	The main requirement for this role is experience in identifying and analysing information from a range of different sources. Experience in manufacturing, healthcare, or other related areas may be some benefit but is not essential.
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Key Information	
Placement ideal start date:	Open to discussion
Placement duration:	3 months (or part-time equivalent)
Full-time or part-time: <i>e.g. 37.5 hours per week or usually 18-19 hours per week</i>	37.5 hours per week (or part-time equivalent)
In-person, online or hybrid:	In-person, online or hybrid
Security/ health and safety restrictions (if relevant):	N/A
Anticipated costs and financial support the Host can offer to help cover these (if relevant): <i>e.g. travel and subsistence costs.</i>	This placement is offered on an unpaid basis. The host organisation will not cover your PhD funding during the placement. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that their programme funding will continue during the placement. There are no anticipated travel and subsistence costs for the placement.

How to Apply	
Applicant eligibility:	This opportunity is only accepting applications from Postgraduate Researchers with secured funding and authorisation from their doctoral funding body to undertake a three-month placement. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the placement meets the criteria specified by their programme and university and that they secure the necessary permissions from their university before commencing the placement.
Closing date and time for applications:	Rolling deadline, however, applications invited ASAP
Application format: <i>e.g. CV, cover letter, application form, etc</i>	CV and cover letter, briefly stating your suitability for this placement, and a short statement of how you would plan to approach the work.

How to submit an application:	Complete the WRDTP Placement Application Form
Recruitment process:	<i>The Host Organisation is responsible for processing the applications received for this opportunity and applications will be processed as follows:</i> Assessment of CV and cover letter, followed by a short online interview for short-listed applicants.