



Chief Data Officer Group, UK Health Security Agency Professional Internship Placement Opportunity

The following information has been provided by the Placement Host Organisation and outlines the placement opportunity available for postgraduate researchers.

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:

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)

Host location:

The head office is in Canary Wharf, but there are also offices in Liverpool, Leeds and Birmingham.

Brief description of the Host Organisation:

Please include a link to a website if you have one.

[UK Health Security Agency - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is an executive agency, sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). At UKHSA, our mission is to protect people's health by preventing and responding to threats—whether that's a new pandemic, everyday infections like influenza, or environmental dangers like radiation or extreme weather. We save lives, protect livelihoods, and work with partners across the NHS, care systems, and globally to keep communities safe. We're a hub of scientific and operational expertise, tackling health challenges at every level—local, national, and international.

The Chief Data Officer (CDO) group is the analytical powerhouse of UKHSA and plays a key role in making sure data is used safely, legally, and ethically. We support every step of the data journey—from collecting and managing information to analytics and delivering insights that drive real-world action.

	If you're passionate about using data to make a difference and want to help solve big health challenges, there's a place for you here in the CDO group.
Host contact details:	<p><i>Any queries about this opportunity should be addressed to the Host Organisation:</i></p> <p>CDO Partnerships Team, UKHSA CDOPartnerships@ukhsa.gov.uk – please reference the placement you are enquiring about in the subject heading.</p>

Project Description	
Placement role title: <i>e.g. Project Assistant</i>	Digital & Data Product Analysis Project Officer
Background/ expected impact of the project:	<p>UKHSA's Data Products Delivery team is offering a placement for a PhD researcher to undertake a high impact strategic analysis of the organisation's live digital and data services. The project will map the full-service landscape, assess duplication and value, and generate evidence-based recommendations to guide future investment, rationalisation and prioritisation.</p> <p>This work will directly support UKHSA's mission to deliver secure, efficient and high value digital services that underpin national health security.</p>

<p>Outline of duties:</p>	<p>The placement will focus on three interconnected areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mapping and Rationalisation of Live Services. The researcher will map all UKHSA live services to the organisation’s capability model, identify duplication or overlap, and assess opportunities for rationalisation. This includes analysing service usage, security posture, cost, risk and performance to inform recommendations. ● Justification, Road mapping and Future Needs. Each service will be assessed for its justification (statutory requirement, health benefit, business efficiency), cost profile and remaining lifetime. The researcher will develop a proposed roadmap for upgrades, replacements and new developments, informed by market trends, legal changes and emerging technologies. This will help anticipate future gaps not yet in the PMO demand pipeline. ● Common Framework for Assessing Health Impact. By reviewing business cases and service assessments across UKHSA, DHSC and wider government, the researcher will identify or propose a common framework for quantifying the health impact of digital services. This will support consistent KPIs, clearer value comparisons and more robust decision-making.
<p>Expected output(s)/ deliverable(s):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A complete map of UKHSA’s live services aligned to the capability model. ● Identification of duplication, inefficiencies and rationalisation opportunities. ● A justification matrix for all services, including statutory drivers, benefits and cost/lifetime considerations. ● A proposed roadmap for service upgrades, replacements and new developments. ● An assessment of external drivers (market, legal, technological) shaping future service needs. ● A recommended framework for assessing and comparing the health impact of digital services. ● A final report and presentation summarising findings and actionable recommendations.
<p>Support for Postgraduate Researcher:</p>	<p>UKHSA is an excellent placement host as we have a developed culture of learning and development, fostered in an inclusive environment. To ensure that the postholder has opportunities to expand their skillsets and to develop professionally, we can</p>

	<p>provide some training in analysis, where required, but we also encourage the researcher to engage with subject matter experts and other early career researchers (ECR) across the UKHSA.</p> <p>At UKHSA, we have a thriving ECR network led by our CDO Partnerships team. The researcher will have the opportunity to join and be supported by the ECR network within the UKHSA, and by other ECRs and team members within the host team. The ECR network has fortnightly meetings to bring learning and development opportunities to placement students as well as quarterly away days at our head office.</p>
<p>Skills and experience required for the role:</p>	<p>Essential skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong analytical and research skills, with the ability to synthesise complex information. ● Experience with systems mapping, service analysis or organisational modelling. ● Ability to interpret cost, performance, risk or usage data. ● Confidence engaging with multidisciplinary teams and presenting findings clearly. <p>Desirable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Well-developed problem-solving skills and user centred approach to developing solutions and ensure evolving user requirements are translated into clear deliverable project outcomes. ● Understanding of digital services, product lifecycles or public-sector technology. ● Interest in health impact evaluation, digital strategy or public-sector innovation.

Key Information	
Placement ideal start date:	September 2026, but flexible
Placement duration:	3-months
Full-time or part-time: <i>e.g. 37.5 hours per week or usually 18-19 hours per week</i>	Full-time is preferred so you can fully immerse yourself in the team and project, but we will work flexibly if part-time hours are required. Placements must be completed in one continuous block due to IT and data access/security requirements.
In-person, online or hybrid:	Remote/hybrid with occasional office/event attendance, but this is at the successful candidate's discretion.

Security/ health and safety restrictions (if relevant):	Not relevant
Anticipated costs and financial support the Host can offer to help cover these (if relevant): <i>e.g. travel and subsistence costs.</i>	<p>This placement will be offered as an unpaid visiting worker. Applicants should seek funding through their funder/research council to complete this placement. UKHSA shall not be responsible for any payment to the researcher or for any travelling and accommodation expenses incurred, except for necessary work-related travel authorised in advance by UKHSA. The researcher will be bound by the UKHSA Business Expense policy in respect of any such expenses.</p> <p>UKHSA shall provide the placement student with appropriate working facilities during the placement, free of charge.</p>

How to Apply	
Applicant eligibility:	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Closing date and time for applications:	Tuesday 30th June 2026
Application format: <i>e.g. CV, cover letter, application form, etc</i>	CV and a 500/1000-word (max) cover letter to evidence how you fit the project requirements, skills and what you can bring to this role.
How to submit an application:	Complete the WRDTP Placement Application Form
Recruitment process:	<p><i>The Host Organisation is responsible for processing the applications received for this opportunity and applications will be processed as follows:</i></p> <p>All applications will be subject to sifting, where statements of suitability and CVs will be assessed against the essential and desirable skills and experience required for the role. Applicants</p>

who successfully pass the sift will be invited for a short virtual interview on MS Teams.

BPSS (Baseline personnel security standard) will be required for this role. [Government baseline personnel security standard - GOV.UK](#)

In some cases, enhanced national security vetting may also be required. ([United Kingdom Security Vetting: Applicant - GOV.UK](#)).

Civil Service recruitment nationality rules will apply to this position. [Civil Service recruitment: nationality rules - GOV.UK](#)

The time it takes for us to onboard successful candidates can vary from case to case. It's reasonable to allow 6-8 weeks from the point of offer to starting a position.