



**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 aimed at Postgraduate Researchers who have funding through a Doctoral Training Partnership to undertake a placement as part of their studentship.

Please note this opportunity is being advertised at multiple universities.

Host Details	
Name of Host Organisation:	UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)
Host location:	Our head office is in Canary Wharf. We also have offices in Liverpool, Bristol and Birmingham.
Brief description of the Host Organisation: <i>Please include a link to a website if you have one.</i>	<p>UK Health Security Agency - GOV.UK</p> <p>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.</p> <p>We’re a hub of scientific and operational expertise, tackling health challenges at every level—local, national, and international.</p> <p>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.</p>

	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 in UKHSA – <i>please reference the placement you are enquiring about in the subject heading.</i></p> <p>CDOPartnerships@ukhsa.gov.uk</p>

Project Description	
Placement role title: <i>e.g. Project Assistant</i>	Developing a proof-of-concept for the development of wastewater analysis - Project Assistant
Background/ expected impact of the project:	<p>The UKHSA is seeking external academic expertise to support the development of wastewater monitoring R&D planning for 2026/2027.</p> <p>Wastewater-based surveillance developed rapidly during the pandemic as an approach to monitor COVID-19 circulating in communities. It has been utilised to monitor biological and chemical markers of human health and lifestyle, but post-pandemic, there is an appreciation that it could be potentially tailored to provide a broader, relatively cost-effective public health surveillance function, complimenting or enhancing other surveillance data, or as an early-warning capability where gaps exist.</p> <p>The UKHSA has acquired funding to develop a proof-of-concept for the development of wastewater analysis to support our public health capabilities and wider national considerations. This 12-month project builds on our previous national wastewater monitoring programme for COVID-19 and the ongoing poliovirus monitoring programme in England. We have undertaken projects based on aircraft wastewater and are currently exploring several additional opportunities for wastewater surveillance projects and collaborations. Collectively, this work will impact how the UKHSA are able to respond and deliver environmental surveillance against a complex backdrop of existing and emergent biothreats. We are now exploring opportunities to build on the expected outputs from these projects so that the capability is agile in its ability to respond, integrative across Government to maximise value for money, and catalytic to ensure that wastewater surveillance opportunities that may emerge are both resilient and sustainable in the future.</p>

<p>Outline of duties:</p>	<p>During this placement we would expect you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conduct timely and tailored reviews of academic and grey literature to support strategic planning. ● Support engagement with key stakeholders from across UKHSA and Government, establishing consensus and agreement to maximise the value of future work. ● Contribute to the production and review of materials to be used in strategic development, including presentation slides, briefing notes, succinct literature reviews, and summaries of engagement activities. ● Conduct qualitative and quantitative analysis of information and data to include the production of tables, figures, or graphics. ● Be an active and engaged member of the CDO Partnerships team.
<p>Expected output(s)/ deliverable(s):</p>	<p>The following outputs are anticipated to be delivered by the end of the placement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Literature review supporting the strategic priorities for wastewater surveillance at UKHSA. - Checklist and summaries of internal and external engagement activities. - Materials supporting engagement and development work - Quantitative and qualitative analyses, where required.
<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 you have opportunities to expand your skillsets and to develop professionally, we can provide training in analysis, where required, but we'll also support you in engaging with subject matter experts and other early career researchers (ECR) across UKHSA.</p> <p>At UKHSA, we have a thriving ECR network led by our CDO Partnerships team. You will have the opportunity to join, and be supported by the ECR network, and by other ECRs and team members within your host team.</p> <p>After your placement you will also join our Alumni ECR Network, where you will receive exclusive insights, future opportunities and development from CDO. So, invest in your future and apply, if you think you fit the skills criteria below, we'd love to hear from you!</p>

<p>Skills and experience required for the role:</p>	<p>Essential skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong experience working with academic and grey literature, including conducting literature reviews. • Strong writing and communication skills, especially focused on summarising and synthesising complex or broad topic areas. • Demonstrated ability to work independently but evidence of a strong teamwork ethic to deliver against tight deadlines. <p>Desirable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good experience working with code for analysis, ideally using R and / or Python. • Good understanding of a relevant scientific area (public health; environmental surveillance; epidemiology). • Some evidence of writing and analysis skills, including peer-reviewed publications, published code or analyses.
--	--

Key Information	
Placement ideal start date:	Flexible, but by January 2026 (to be agreed with the successful candidate)
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>	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. We do however need the placement to be undertaken in one continuous block due to IT and data access/security requirements.
In-person, online or hybrid:	The placement will be remote with the occasional office/event attendance, but this is at the successful candidate's discretion. If you would like to attend one of the offices more regularly, we can look at getting you a government pass.
Security/ health and safety restrictions (if relevant):	Mandatory training to use UKHSA systems.

<p>Anticipated costs and financial support the Host can offer to help cover these (if relevant): e.g. travel and subsistence costs.</p>	<p>Any costs associated with travel or accommodation will be reimbursed by UKHSA in line with other funding schemes like UKRI.</p> <p>UKHSA can cover pre-approved travel, and subsistence costs up to £3,426 per 3-month placement, bound by the UKHSA Business Expense policy in respect of any such expenses.</p>
--	--

<h2>How to Apply</h2>	
<p>Closing date and time for applications:</p>	<p>Friday 12th September 2025, 23:59 GMT</p>
<p>Application format: e.g. CV, cover letter, application form, etc</p>	<p>CV and a 500-word (max) cover letter to evidence how you fit the project requirements, skills and what you can bring to this role.</p>
<p>How to submit an application:</p>	<p>Send your CV and a cover letter (max 500 words) to the CDO Partnerships Team, UKHSA, CDOPartnerships@ukhsa.gov.uk with the subject line “WRDTP - WW S&P placement application”.</p>
<p>Recruitment process:</p>	<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>Successful applicants will be invited for a short virtual interview on MS Teams. The successful candidate will be informed 1-2 weeks after the interview, depending on how many interviews there are.</p> <p>The successful candidate will then be asked to sign an agreement after security checks (United Kingdom Security Vetting: Applicant - GOV.UK) have been completed. Please allow 4-6 weeks for the whole onboarding process, at the higher end if you are an international PGR holding a student visa.</p> <p>Civil Service eligibility criteria will apply. How to Apply Civil Service Careers (civil-service-careers.gov.uk).</p>