

Translate MedTech Secondment Scheme: Versus Arthritis Opportunity

The Leeds and Sheffield City Regions are a driving force for the UK healthcare sector, with world-leading clinical expertise and research and development capacity across its universities, hospitals, healthcare and medical device manufacturing sectors.

Translate MedTech is a research translation programme that aims to enhance and embed medical technology innovation know-how across the Leeds and Sheffield City Regions.

We lead a targeted innovation development programme to enhance innovation awareness, understanding and capacity.

We are a partnership of universities in the Leeds and Sheffield City Regions with expertise in the development of new medical technologies.

The programme, originally funded by the HEFCE (now Office for Students) Catalyst Fund, is now financed by the partner universities of Bradford, Huddersfield, Leeds Beckett, Leeds, Sheffield Hallam and York.

Working together, smarter, faster.

VERSUS ARTHRITIS

About Versus Arthritis

We are **Versus Arthritis**. We are volunteers, healthcare professionals, researchers and friends, all doing everything we can to push back against arthritis. We're reaching out to everybody with the information and support they need, funding vital research and changing the way society sees arthritis. Together we'll keep running, researching, influencing, volunteering, advising, chatting, baking, listening. We won't stop until no-one has to tolerate living with the pain, fatigue and isolation of arthritis.

Join us and use your skills, knowledge, passion and energy to help us defy arthritis.

<p>Purpose of the scheme</p>	<p>To develop the innovation skills and translational capability of medical technology researchers in the Leeds and Sheffield City Regions.</p>
<p>Secondment opportunity</p>	<p>We are seeking two PhD students or post-doctoral researchers (based at one of the Translate partner universities: University of Bradford, University of Huddersfield, Leeds Beckett University, Sheffield Hallam University, University of Leeds, University of York) to work with the Research Engagement, team at Versus Arthritis. The team showcase the impact of research funded by Versus Arthritis and our main functions are communication, public engagement, data analysis and managing our network of research volunteers.</p> <p>Research underpins many of the charity’s activities, so our team plays a vital role. A little more on the key functions of the team:</p> <p>Research Liaison and Engagement: We make sure that news and information about our research activities including research outputs and successes, are clearly explained and provided in a timely manner to teams across the charity and to external audiences. We also lead a programme of research engagement both internally, through blogs and staff development training, and externally, through planned communications and events with our research community.</p> <p>Research Evaluation: We evaluate and analyse our research portfolio using a range of techniques, so that we can properly understand our investments and the impact of the research we fund. The data and resulting impact stories are used widely in internal and external communications</p> <p>Research Involvement: We oversee the involvement of people with arthritis in activity within the research directorate. We have an ambition for people with arthritis to be meaningfully involved across the research cycle. We are currently undertaking a review of our involvement activities working with people with arthritis to establish a new offer for volunteers in early summer.</p> <p>Details of the secondments Secondment 1 – starting April 2021 in the Research Involvement team. Secondment 2 – starting April 2021 in the Research Evaluation team.</p> <p>Secondment 1 area of work (Research Involvement team)</p>

It is anticipated that the candidate would support the researcher element of the Involvement review. This would include helping to plan and run insight gathering activities to determine how researchers want to be supported in involving patients in their research and what their expectations of the charity are. It would also include analysis and report writing and working with colleagues on the wider review. We are keen to offer a wide experience to align with candidate interests so there could also be opportunity for other work such as volunteer communications or website content creation.

Secondment 2 area of work (Research Evaluation team)

You would carry out a variety of tasks related to deriving insight from our research portfolio. We are keen to match tasks to the skills and interests of the candidate so examples of tasks could be:

- Investigations into Versus Arthritis' research portfolio generating insight and information for a range of audiences and for charity reporting purposes. This could be to answer specific queries about the projects we are funding or to report on trends and future directions.
- Analysing researcher reported outcomes and impacts of their research projects and providing clear summaries for a general audience in a range of formats
- Working with Research Engagement colleagues to produce communication materials, such as blogs and webpage content, to share insights and stories gained from analysing our research activities.

Skills developed

During this secondment you can expect to develop skills including:

- Greater understanding of musculoskeletal disorders
- Enhanced communication skills to a wide range of audiences
- An understanding of the motivations and values of charitable medical research funders
- Project management skills and an ability to manage multiple tasks simultaneously
- Understanding of the grant funding process (experience of the peer review process, the different types of funding and using a research management database)
- Experience of patient involvement in research activities

Secondments can be fully flexible, full- or part-time up to a maximum of three months starting in April 2021.

	<p>Currently we are home working and would expect this to be the case during these secondments. The successful candidates will be provided with the equipment needed to perform their roles.</p>
<p>Funding</p>	<p>Funding (up to a max of £2.5K*) is available to cover the following costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to/from the host organisation • Accommodation and subsistence costs for the duration of the secondment <p>Other associated costs will be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Please note that this scheme does not provide funding for conference attendance, electronic equipment (such as laptops), or salary costs.</p> <p>(*Applicants are encouraged to seek co-funding from, for example, their host university - where appropriate.)</p>
<p>How to apply</p>	<p>A completed <u>application form and copy of your CV</u> should be emailed to:</p> <p>hello@translate-medtech.ac.uk</p> <p>Completed applications must be received by 12pm on Monday 29th March 2021.</p>

<p>Assessment process</p>	<p>Applications will be assessed by representatives from Versus Arthritis and the Translate programme.</p> <p>We will consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of new knowledge and skills • Impact on career development • Benefits to your research group or immediate community • Benefits for the host organisation • Development of new collaborations <p>The successful secondee would be required to demonstrate the following skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An undergraduate qualification in a relevant discipline • Ability to summarise scientific and technical detail in an accessible format • Ability to engage with patient- expert, scientific and medical community at all levels • Excellent organisational and time management skills • Attention to detail and high standards of accuracy • Excellent inter-personal skills • Ability to work on own initiative • Good excel and general IT skills • Ability to work effectively as part of a team and individually • A sensitive attitude when dealing with confidential information.
<p>Conditions of award</p>	<p>The successful candidate will be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend two Translate workshops/events • Provide a minimum of three blog posts about their secondment for the Translate website <p>S/he may also be invited to present at Translate events.</p>
<p>Further information</p>	<p>For further information, please contact: Mohua Siddique, Translate Innovation Development Officer</p> <p>Email: m.siddique@leeds.ac.uk</p>