We invite applications for a work placement student to help on a study of autism spectrum disorders. The study is following up a cohort of individuals who were seen in early childhood and are now aged between 12 and 16 years. The student will work as part of a research team under the guidance of Professor Emily Simonoff.

The student will have an opportunity to:
- Observe sophisticated research assessments and gain an understanding of a range of observational research techniques and methods.
- Observe clinical sessions at the Maudsley Hospital Children’s Services.
- Attend lectures at the IoPPN given by national and international experts which cover a wide variety of topics in psychology, psychiatry and neuroscience.
- Attend research meetings and gain a good sense of how a large and complex research project is undertaken.

The student will work with experienced research team members. Duties will include:
- Tracing families who have taken part in previous studies.
- Making appointments for these assessments.
- Assisting parents and young people with completion of questionnaires.
- Assisting with assessments (including physiological and experimental measures).
- Inputting data from interviews and assessments.

The student must have:
- A very good telephone manner and good English.
- Ability to understand the concepts of the research in order to explain it to parents if necessary.
- Accurate data entry skills and good attention to detail.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, commitment, self-motivation and a flexible approach.
- The student should be organized and able to work independently.

This internship offers an honorarium of £70 per week.

Deadline for CV and cover letters: Tuesday 21st March 2017
The Project

The research programme you will be working on, "Improving outcomes for people with autism by reducing mental health problems" (IAMHealth), is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) in total for 5 years.

This programme involves people with ASD from early childhood to adult life. We aim to identify the early childhood risk/protective factors that differentiate those who develop severe mental health problems in adolescence, so that resources can be better focused to those at highest risk. This study is part of a wider research programme which will also be developing and piloting an early intervention for parents aimed at reducing risk behaviour and increasing parental understanding of mental health and ASD.

The children and adolescents taking part are being seen at three time-points: 4-8 years; 10-14 years; and 12-16 years old. The placement student will be involved with the follow-up at 12-16 years old, when we will be carrying out in-depth psychiatric assessments of the children/teenagers.

IAMHealth project website: http://iamhealthkcl.net/

Applications

Please send a CV and covering letter to: Ms Pippa White, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, Box P085, De Crespigny Park, London SE5 8AF or via email to pippa.white@kcl.ac.uk. Please write “Placement Year Application” in the subject line of the email.

Deadline: Tuesday 21st March 2017

Interviews will be held 28th-30th March 2017