**THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS**

# **GREEN SCHOLAR JOB DESCRIPTION**

**JOB TITLE:** Green Scholar

**TERM OF OFFICE:** 1 year: September 2022 - September 2023

**RESPONSIBLE TO:** Planetary Health& SustainabilityCommittee Chairs - Dr Jacob Krzanowski & Dr Lisa Page

**GOVERNANCE:** TheRegistrar

**MANAGEMENT:** Associate Registrars for Sustainability - Dr Jacob Krzanowski & Dr Lisa Page

**ELECTED/APPOINTED:** Appointed following advertisement on College website and competitive interview

**TIME COMMITMENT:** Weeklyspecial interest time and to include 3-4 committee meetings per year

**SALARY**: Voluntary, with a dedicated bursary of £800

**Job Purpose**

Green scholars are Higher Specialist Trainees in psychiatry, who use their special interest day each week to work with the RCPsych Planetary Health and Sustainability Committee for a period of one year starting in September 2022.

This is a programme that supports trainees to develop their knowledge of the interface between planetary and mental health supporting development of skills in leadership, advocacy and supporting sustainable quality improvement. Emphasis is placed on recognising the impacts of climate change, ecological degradation and interface with social justice while imagining ways to develop practical solutions to more adaptable, prevention focused mental health services. Scholars get a dedicated study budget for the year.

**Background**

The RCPsych Green Scholar Programme has been running for over 5 years and was previously known as the Sustainability Scholarship Programme. Previous successful candidates have used their allocated “special interest” professional development time (1 day per week), to sit on the RCPsych Planetary Health and Sustainability Committee and lead on projects for the College. The areas on which previous scholars have focused have been varied, identifying opportunities to focus on College work, developing sustainable programmes locally, advocacy through presentations, and building relationships with organisations and colleagues working in the area.

See here for details of current scholars: <https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/improving-care/working-sustainably/sustainability-scholars>

These projects will be supported by an £800 study budget that the scholar can use to develop a chosen project, attend relevant training or conferences.

**The Green Scholar roles**

Green scholars will be supervised and supported by members of the Planetary Health and Sustainability Committee. The roles are suitable for higher specialist trainees from any specialty.

We are aware that applicants may have a specific area of interest that they want to explore and research further, and we welcome suggestions for what could be your focus. Within the Planetary Health and Sustainability Committee, we are also pursuing specific themes of work, which we can match you with.

If you would like further information, relating to these specific areas and work streams, then please contact [lisa.page@spft.nhs.uk](mailto:lisa.page@spft.nhs.uk)

**Support and Supervision:**

The successful scholars will be matched with one or more members of the RCPsych Planetary Health & Sustainability Committee who will mentor and supervise the trainee throughout the year. The committee has excellent links with organisations such as the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare[[1]](#footnote-2), UK Health Alliance on Climate Change[[2]](#footnote-3), Greener NHS[[3]](#footnote-4), Grantham Institute[[4]](#footnote-5), and other organisations committed to sustainable practice in health services.

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Represent the RCPsych when appropriate.
2. To work with the relevant supervisor on a dedicated project.
3. To adhere to the College Values (as below)

**PERSON SPECIFICATION::**

**Essential**

1. Current Higher Specialist Trainee in Psychiatry (Full Time or LTFT)
2. Member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists
3. To have the support of your educational and clinical supervisor in undertaking the role
4. Have a commitment to using sustainable principles in mental health care
5. Have excellent written and verbal communication skills

**Desirable**

1. Previous experience of projects or research related to sustainability
2. To have an idea of a project you would like to focus on in the year

**THE COLLEGE VALUES**

Courage

• Champion the specialty of psychiatry and its benefits to patients

• Take every opportunity to promote and influence the mental health agenda

• Take pride in our organisation and demonstrate self‐belief

• Promote parity of esteem

• Uphold the dignity of those affected by mental illness, intellectual disabilities and developmental disorders.

Innovation

• Embrace innovation and improve ways to deliver services

• Challenge ourselves and be open to new ideas

• Seek out and lead on new, evidence‐based, ways of working

• Have the confidence to take considered risks

• Embrace the methodology of Quality Improvement to improve mental health services and the work of the College.

Respect

• Promote diversity and challenge inequalities

• Behave respectfully – and with courtesy – towards everyone

• Challenge bullying and inappropriate behaviour

• Value everyone’s input and ideas equally

• Consider how own behaviour might affect others

• Respect the environment and promote sustainability.

Collaboration

• Work together as One College – incorporating all members, employees, patients and carers

• Work professionally and constructively with partner organisations

• Consult all relevant audiences to achieve effective outcomes for the College

• Work together with patients and carers as equal partners

• Be transparent, wherever possible and appropriate.

Learning

• Learn from all experiences

• Share our learning and empower others to do the same

• Value and encourage personal feedback

• Use feedback to make continuous improvements

• Create an enabling environment where everyone is listened to, regardless of seniority

• Positively embrace new ways of working.

Excellence

• Deliver outstanding service to members, patients, carers and other stakeholders

• Promote excellent membership and employee experience

• Always seek to improve on own performance

• Promote professionalism by acting with integrity and behaving responsibly

• Demonstrate accountability in all that we do

• Uphold the College’s ‘Core Values for Psychiatrists’.

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| **INTERNAL COLLEGE CONTACTS:** |
| * Department: Finance and Operations * Name of Contact: Rosalind Steele * Job Title: Governance Officer |

1. <https://sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. http://www.ukhealthalliance.org/ [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. https://www.imperial.ac.uk/grantham/ [↑](#footnote-ref-5)