

Royal College of Psychiatrists Parliamentary Scholar Programme 2022/23

Overview:

The RCPsych and Professor the Baroness Hollins, former President run a successful special interest session for ST4-6 trainees training in psychiatry with an interest in politics and current affairs.

The scheme gives senior trainees the opportunity to spend one day a week at in Parliament – with opportunities to work in either the House of Commons or Lords to develop leadership and other skills necessary to influence policy on mental health matters.

Details:

We are looking for up to five ST4-6 trainees drawn from the range of psychiatric subspecialties to use their special interest sessions to develop experience in parliamentary affairs.

- The trainees will be appointed to the Scholar posts by the Royal College of Psychiatrists in collaboration with participating parliamentarians
- Salary costs are covered already within trainees' contracts with their Local Educational Provider
- Applications will be welcomed from trainees from all 4 UK nations
- Applicants should submit a CV and written statement (no more than one side A4) and complete the application form.
- Applications will require the written support of the applicant's Training Programme Director (TPD) and Head of School
- Previously we have been able to offer support for travel and accommodation expenses for trainees outside London and to support additional educational activities thanks to the generous support of charitable foundations. We hope to be able to continue to do this.
- Parliamentary Scholars will be hosted within the Royal College of Psychiatrists within the Strategic Communications Department, under the leadership of the External Affairs team
- A monthly supervision and education group will be held for the scholars in collaboration with participating parliamentarians and RCPsych policy and communications staff
- Baroness Hollins has very kindly agreed to approach other Peers with interests in health to consider hosting a trainee, and we are also looking at opportunities for some placements to be made in the Commons also.
- Due to the unpredictability of Parliamentary work, some flexibility from trainees and their educational and clinical supervisors will be expected regarding scheduling of work
- The trainees will be expected to be self-motivated and be able to work independently

- Placements will be for 10 months starting in early October 2022 following the summer recess
- The acceptance of the position by the trainee is contingent on approval by their TPD as meeting their training needs, as well as on security clearance by the Sergeant at Arms Directorate at the House of Commons
- Learning Opportunities are likely to include:
 - Learning to carry out research and review of relevant topics, including legislation for debate
 - Learning to draft speeches
 - Following up ministerial responses
 - Attending ministerial briefings and meetings
 - Answering correspondence from interested parties on relevant issues.
 - Liaising with policy staff from the Royal College of Psychiatrists and other relevant charities
 - Liaising with other parliamentary staff and members of the House of Lords and the House of Commons
 - Organising meetings with respect to parliamentary affairs

Applicants are required to submit a CV, a supporting statement (one side of A4) and a completed application form to peter.hand@rcpsych.ac.uk If you have any questions about the scheme you can also contact Peter Hand, Public affairs and Stakeholder Manager at Peter.Hand@rcpsych.ac.uk

Closing date for applications 13th May 2022. Interviews will be held in June or July 2022.