

# Royal College of Psychiatrists Parliamentary Scholar Programme



## Overview

Since 2012 Professor the Baroness Hollins, former President of The Royal College of Psychiatrists has run a successful special interest session for ST4-6 trainees training in psychiatry of intellectual disability. The scheme has enabled senior trainees to spend one day a week at the House of Lords to develop leadership and other skills necessary to influence policy on mental health matters.

## Details

We aim to expand the opportunity to support up to four 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)
- Applications will require the written support of the applicant's Training Programme Director (TPD) and Head of School
- Travel expenses have historically been met by Trainee/Local Education Providers however sources of external funding will be explored with the view to providing bursaries to support travel and accommodation expenses for trainees outside London and to support additional educational activities
- Parliamentary Scholars will be hosted within the Royal College of Psychiatrists within the Strategic Communications Department, under leadership of Jonathan Blay
- Parliamentary Scholars will be co-opted onto the Royal College of Psychiatrists Westminster Parliamentary Committee co-chaired by Dr Jon Goldin and Dr Juli Crocombe and will be expected to attend committee meetings regularly
- 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
- Due to the nature 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 October 2017 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:
  1. Learning to carry out research and review of relevant topics, including legislation for debate
  2. Learning to draft speeches
  3. Following up ministerial responses
  4. Attending ministerial briefings and meetings
  5. Answering correspondence from interested parties on relevant issues.
  6. Liaising with policy staff from the Royal College of Psychiatrists and other relevant charities
  7. Liaising with other parliamentary staff and members of the House of Lords and the House of Commons
  8. Organising meetings with respect to parliamentary affairs