

**Chief Data Officer Group, UK Health Security Agency
Professional Internship Placement Opportunity**

The following information has been provided by the Placement Host Organisation and outlines the placement opportunity available for Doctoral Training Partnership postgraduate students.

Any queries about this placement should be addressed to the Host Organisation at the details provided below.

Name of Host Organisation:**UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)****About UKHSA [UK Health Security Agency - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/ukhsa)**

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is an executive agency, sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). At UKHSA, our mission is to protect people's health by preventing and responding to threats—whether that's a new pandemic, everyday infections like influenza, or environmental dangers like radiation or extreme weather. We save lives, protect livelihoods, and work with partners across the NHS, care systems, and globally to keep communities safe.

We're a hub of scientific and operational expertise, tackling health challenges at every level—local, national, and international.

The Chief Data Officer (CDO) group is the analytical powerhouse of UKHSA and plays a key role in making sure data is used safely, legally, and ethically. We support every step of the data journey—from collecting and managing information to analytics and delivering insights that drive real-world action.

If you're passionate about using data to make a difference and want to help solve big health challenges, there's a place for you here in the CDO group.

Period of placement:

Placement start date: 2026 ideally

Duration: 3 months

Working pattern and location of the placement:

Placements will be remote with occasional office/event attendance, but this is at the successful candidate's discretion. Our head office is in Canary Wharf, we also have offices in Liverpool, Leeds and Birmingham.

Full-time is preferred so you can fully immerse yourself in the team and project, but we will work flexibly if part-time hours are required. Placements must be completed in one continuous block due to IT and data access/security requirements.



Description of the placement opportunity available:

Background/ expected impact:

UKHSA's Data Products Delivery team is offering a three-month placement for a DTP PhD student to undertake a high impact strategic analysis of the organisation's live digital and data services. The project will map the full-service landscape, assess duplication and value, and generate evidence-based recommendations to guide future investment, rationalisation and prioritisation. This work will directly support UKHSA's mission to deliver secure, efficient and high value digital services that underpin national health security.

Outline of duties:

The placement will focus on three interconnected areas:

- **Targeted deep-dives into priority areas** where we still have limited visibility (e.g. service performance, cost, or health outcomes)
- **Strengthening the evidence base** behind rationalisation and investment decisions
- **Supporting the development of common frameworks**, particularly around how we assess and compare health impact across services
- **Mapping and Rationalisation of Live Services.** The student will map all UKHSA live services to the organisation's capability model, identify duplication or overlap, and assess opportunities for rationalisation. This includes analysing service usage, security posture, cost, risk and performance to inform recommendations.
- **Justification, Road mapping and Future Needs.** Each service will be assessed for its justification (statutory requirement, health benefit, business efficiency), cost profile and remaining lifetime. The student will develop a proposed roadmap for upgrades, replacements and new developments, informed by market trends, legal changes and emerging technologies. This will help anticipate future gaps not yet in the PMO demand pipeline.
- **Common Framework for Assessing Health Impact.** By reviewing business cases and service assessments across UKHSA, DHSC and wider government, the student will identify or propose a common framework for quantifying the health impact of digital services. This will support consistent KPIs, clearer value comparisons and more robust decision-making.

Expected output(s)/ deliverable(s):

- A complete map of UKHSA's live services aligned to the capability model.
- Identification of duplication, inefficiencies and rationalisation opportunities.



- A justification matrix for all services, including statutory drivers, benefits and cost/lifetime considerations.
- A proposed roadmap for service upgrades, replacements and new developments.
- An assessment of external drivers (market, legal, technological) shaping future service needs.
- A recommended framework for assessing and comparing the health impact of digital services.
- A final report and presentation summarising findings and actionable recommendations.

Support for student:

UKHSA is an excellent placement opportunity as we have a developed culture of learning and development, fostered in an inclusive environment. To ensure that the postholder has opportunities to expand their skillsets and to develop professionally, we can provide some training in analysis, where required, but we also encourage the student to engage with subject matter experts and other early career researchers (ECR) across the UKHSA. At UKHSA, we have a thriving Early Career Research network led by our CDO Partnerships team. The student will have the opportunity to join and be supported by the ECR network within the UKHSA, and by other ECRs and team members within the host team. The ECR network has fortnightly meetings to bring learning and development opportunities to placement students as well as quarterly away days at our head office.



Skills and experience required for the role:**Essential skills**

- Strong analytical and research skills, with the ability to synthesise complex information.
- Experience with systems mapping, service analysis or organisational modelling.
- Ability to interpret cost, performance, risk or usage data.
- Confidence engaging with multidisciplinary teams and presenting findings clearly.

Desirable

- Well-developed problem-solving skills and user centred approach to developing solutions and ensure evolving user requirements are translated into clear deliverable project outcomes.
- Understanding of digital services, product lifecycles or public-sector technology.
- Interest in health impact evaluation, digital strategy or public-sector innovation.

Security/ health and safety restrictions (if relevant):**Anticipated costs associated with the placement (e.g. travel and subsistence costs), and any financial contribution the Host will make to help cover these (if relevant):**

This placement will be offered as an unpaid visiting worker. Applicants should seek funding through their funder/research council to complete this placement. UKHSA shall not be responsible for any payment to the Visitor or for any travelling and accommodation expenses incurred, except for necessary work related travel authorised in advance by UKHSA. The Visitor will be bound by the UKHSA Business Expense policy in respect of any such expenses.

UKHSA shall provide the Visitor with appropriate working facilities during the placement, free of charge.



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How to apply:**Closing date for applications:**

Application format: CV and a 500/1000-word (max) cover letter to evidence how you fit the project requirements, skills and what you can bring to this role.

How to submit an application:

Send your CV and a cover letter (max 500/1000 words) to the CDO Partnerships Team, UKHSA, CDOPartnerships@ukhsa.gov.uk with the subject line "Digital Product Analysis DTP application".

Please note this opportunity is being advertised at multiple universities.

Recruitment process:

The Host Organisation is responsible for processing the applications received for this opportunity and applications will be processed as follows:

All applications will be subject to sifting, where Statements of suitability and CV's will be assessed against the Essential and Desirable skills and experience required for the role. Applicants who successfully pass the sift will be invited for a short virtual interview on MS Teams.

BPSS (Baseline personnel security standard) will be required for this role. [Government baseline personnel security standard - GOV.UK](#)

In some cases, enhanced national security vetting may also be required. ([United Kingdom Security Vetting: Applicant - GOV.UK](#)).

Civil Service recruitment nationality rules will apply to this position. [Civil Service recruitment: nationality rules - GOV.UK](#)

The time it takes for us to onboard successful candidates can vary from case to case. It's reasonable to allow 6-8 weeks from the point of offer to starting a position.



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Host contact details:

Any queries about this opportunity should be addressed to the Host Organisation.

CDO Partnerships Team, UKHSA

CDOPartnerships@ukhsa.gov.uk – *please reference the placement you are enquiring about in the subject heading.*