

## **Cross Sector Placement for Early Career Researchers**

### **Who can apply?**

Early career researchers, including second or third year PhD students or researchers who are within 8 years of completing their PhD or equivalent taking into account caring responsibilities, part time work and other career breaks and paths. Emerging Minds also recognises that in some disciplines researchers do not necessarily require PhDs, these applicants will be eligible unless they already have a track record of leading major research grants.

### **What is an Emerging Minds cross sector placement?**

- Spend 3 months full time (or longer part-time, e.g.: two or three days per week) working in a host organisation in the public or third sector.
- Complete a project, to be agreed with the host, that makes the most of your knowledge and skills but that also allows you to further develop your ability to work across sectors and disciplines.
- Work with the Mental Elf to write a blog about an important recent paper of relevance to the placement, create supplementary digital content (such as an infographic, podcast interview, video summary of research findings etc) and then disseminate the blog and other content to facilitate discussions about the implications of the relevant new research.
- Ensure a brief financial report is prepared and submitted on any funding received.
- To understand and adhere to your host organisation's policies and practices, particularly with regard to safeguarding.

You can see examples of previous placements here:

<https://emergingminds.org.uk/cross-sector-placements/>

## **How does the financial side work?**

The Emerging Minds network is funded by UK Research & Innovation. We can provide up to £11,000 of funding to enable the participation of the Early Career Researcher in the placement. This will be given to the Higher Educational Institution where the Early Career Researcher is based to manage and distribute. This will need to cover:

- The salary or stipend for the ECR (either to cover an additional 3 month period of the ECR's contract to undertake the placement/ or to replace their stipend/ salary for period of placement).
- Any other project costs directly incurred by the host organisation (e.g.: design of reports or payment of lived experience advisors etc)

## **What are the overall objectives of the cross sector placements?**

- To enable Early Career Researchers (ECRs) to develop their ability to work across sectors and disciplines; improving their ability to work with key stakeholders such as policy makers and practitioners.
- To develop the ability of ECRs to share research findings with key stakeholders in effective and engaging ways.
- To provide public sector and third sector organisations with skilled researchers who can deliver on specific short term, high impact research projects.
- To help foster stronger collaborations between researchers and key partners such as the public sector and third sector.
- To review and learn from this as a pilot; with consideration of how the scheme could be sustained and expanded.

## **Who can I contact to find out more?**

If you have any questions or you'd like to have an informal conversation about this opportunity please contact Emily at [info@emergingminds.org.uk](mailto:info@emergingminds.org.uk)

## Mental Health Innovations/ Shout 85258 placement

<p><b>The partner</b></p>	<p>About Mental Health Innovations and Shout 85258</p> <p>Mental Health Innovations (MHI) is a digital mental health charity, which uses data digital innovation, data-driven analysis and the experience of clinical experts to improve the mental health of the UK population: <a href="https://mentalhealthinnovations.org/">https://mentalhealthinnovations.org/</a></p> <p>Shout 85258, the first service from Mental Health Innovations, is the UK's first, free, 24/7 crisis text support service. Since launch in May 2019, Shout 85258 has had nearly 800,000 conversations with people who are anxious, stressed, depressed, overwhelmed or unable to cope and who need immediate support. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of daily conversations we are taking has increased, currently averaging around 1,200 per day. At the heart of what we do are our trained volunteers, who take conversations with texters, listening and supporting them to get to a calmer place: <a href="http://www.giveusashout.org">www.giveusashout.org</a></p> <p>Contact: <a href="mailto:mark.ungless@mhiuk.org">mark.ungless@mhiuk.org</a></p>
<p><b>Aim of the project</b></p>	<p>Around 30% of conversations with texters at Shout include thoughts of suicide. The aim of this project is to better understand this cohort of conversations. In particular, we want to understand what features of conversations lead to a de-escalation and/or the texter safety planning, including what coping strategies the texter may agree to use.</p> <p>This project will take several complementary approaches. First, a thematic analysis of selected conversations about suicide. Second, quantitative computational analysis of conversations (carried out by Mental Health Innovations staff). Third, qualitative interviews with Mental Health Innovations supervisors (who supervise texter-volunteer conversations on the Shout platform) and a selected group of volunteers to identify de-escalation / safety planning factors.</p>

	<p>The work will be focused on conversations with children and young adults, with some data from older texters used for comparison (our preliminary work suggests that there may be important age-related differences in these types of conversation).</p> <p>We anticipate that the findings from this project will help us enhance the training and support we give volunteers about these types of conversations. In addition, we hope that the project may also generate findings of broad interest to those working in suicide prevention.</p>
<p><b>Timing</b></p>	<p>3 months full time or equivalent on a part-time basis.</p> <p>Start date is flexible please let us know your availability and preferred working pattern in your application.</p>
<p><b>Location</b></p>	<p>Location can be mostly flexible, although some visits to MHI's office in London W10 would be required.</p>
<p><b>Responsibilities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with MHI to refine the design of the project</li> <li>• Develop a project plan</li> <li>• Conduct research on MHI data (text-based conversations)</li> <li>• Conduct interviews with MHI staff and Shout volunteers</li> <li>• Collaborate with MHI staff to obtain relevant quantitative data based on computational approaches.</li> <li>• Develop a dissemination plan for internal and external stakeholders, including at least a blog and short report.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Placement host's contribution</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MHI will provide the necessary equipment, office space when required, access to necessary data, staff, and volunteers, along with day-to-day supervision and training.</li> <li>• We will ensure completion of a DBS check.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Skills &amp; experience required</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience with collecting (e.g., through interviews) and analysing (e.g. thematic analyses) qualitative data.</li> <li>• Good quantitative skills.</li> <li>• Ability to communicate with a range of stakeholders.</li> <li>• Interest in mental health.</li> </ul> <p>This funded placement is open to any early career researchers who are studying with or employed by a UK Higher Education Institution.</p>
<p><b>How to apply</b></p>	<p>Please send your completed application form by email to <a href="mailto:info@emergingminds.org.uk">info@emergingminds.org.uk</a> by <b>9am on Thursday 8 July 2021</b></p> <p>Interviews with the team at Mental Health Innovations will take place in week commencing <b>19 July 2021</b>.</p>