

SGSSS Academic Placements

Placement Information

Placement Title	C01_10 Mapping the education sector in support of digital transformation of health and care
Project Host contact	Dr Sanna Rimpiläinen
Host team (research centre/research team or professional services team)	The Digital Health & Care Innovation Centre (DHI) University of Strathclyde
Full time/part time	Full time
In person/remote/hybrid	Either
Duration	3 months (full time) or 6 months (part time)
To apply	Please submit an application via SGSSS Apply

Placement Details

Project Description:

One of four national Innovation Centres, the Digital Health & Care Innovation Centre (DHI) is a world-leading collaboration between the University of Strathclyde and Glasgow School of Art, publicly funded by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and the Scottish Government.

Background

In 2021, the DHI conducted a comprehensive review of Scottish higher and further education (HE/FE) offerings relevant to the digital transformation of health and care. This review was carried out by Dr Sanna Rimpiläinen and took approximately 2 months to complete.

The review revealed a significant gap between educational provision and the digital competencies required by the sector. With only 1% of health and care courses explicitly addressing digital health, and minimal interdisciplinary integration across ICT, design, and leadership, the findings highlighted an urgent need for curriculum innovation.

Given the rapid evolution of both the education sector and digital health technologies, this project seeks to refresh and expand the 2021 review, providing an up-to-date evidence base to inform policy, curriculum development, and workforce planning.

Project Objectives:

1. Update the course landscape
 - Re-examine online prospectuses of Scottish HE and FE institutions (19 universities and 24 colleges)
 - Identify and categorise current courses across:
 - ICT, computing, and STEM
 - Health and medicine
 - Social care
 - Design
 - Business, leadership, and innovation
2. Assess digital integration
 - Evaluate the extent to which digital health and care content is embedded in course offerings
 - Identify new or emerging interdisciplinary courses since 2021
3. Compare with 2021 baseline
 - Quantitatively and qualitatively compare 2025 findings with the 2021 review
 - Highlight trends, improvements, and persistent gaps

If time allows, it may be helpful for the intern to consider and identify strategic opportunities (such as recommending areas for curriculum enhancement or new educational pathways, or exploring how AI, cybersecurity, and data science can be better integrated into health and care education) but this is not an essential part of the project.

This is primarily a desk-based research job, with potentially some stakeholder consultation activity to validate the secondary research and analysis.

If time allows, the intern will have the opportunity to write an article or a publication with the support of the supervisory team based on this study.

This opportunity offers the following benefits for the student:

The student will benefit in the following ways:

- Refine advanced skills in educational research and policy analysis
- Develop their experience in digital health and interdisciplinary curriculum mapping
- Stakeholder engagement and communication skills

Contribute to a high-impact, real-world policy initiative

Experience and Skills Required:

Essential skills	Desirable skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research skills • Critical thinking and analytical skills • Content/thematic analysis • Written communication • Self-management and initiative • Attention to detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder engagement • Policy analysis • Presentation skills • Digital health and care awareness • Knowledge of Scottish HE/FE landscape • Adaptability and problem solving

Eligibility

Academic placements are open to SGSSS funded students whose ESRC funding began after October 2024 only.

Further Information

Shortlisted applicants may be invited to interview.

For further information, please consult the [Research in Practice Guidance for Students](#). If this does not answer your questions, please contact SGSSS: team@sgsss.ac.uk.