

NIHR South Coast INSIGHT Programme (SCIP)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I apply?

Applicants should complete the online application form.

2. When is the application deadline?

The deadline for receipt of applications is 23.00 GMT on Monday 6th April 2026.

3. Who should apply for the INSIGHT awards?

All early career health or social care professionals registered with one of the eligible regulatory professional bodies at the time commencement on the programme are welcome to apply.

4. What is considered early career?

For the purposes of the SCIP award, early career is defined as **up to** five years whole time equivalent time spent working in your registered profession. Career breaks (e.g., maternity leave) are excluded from the calculation of whole time equivalent.

5. What are the eligible regulatory professional bodies considered for this award?

Applications are welcome from undergraduate or postgraduate students/early career professionals working towards registration/ registered with one the following regulatory bodies (not including doctors and dentists):

- Academy for Healthcare Science
- General Chiropractic Council
- General Dental Council
- General Medical Council
- General optical Council
- General Osteopathic Council
- General Pharmaceutical Council
- Health and Care Professions Council
- Nursing and Midwifery Council
- Social Work England
- UK Public Health Register

Applicants must be registered with one of the eligible professional regulatory body's at commencement of the programme.

6. Can I study part time?

Applicants can choose to study full time (completion within one year) or part time (completion within two years).

7. Can I work alongside study?

Yes, you can work alongside study however you must demonstrate how you will meet the study requirements of the course to which you have applied. Please note, these vary by course and you should ensure that you are familiar with the requirements of the course that you have applied to.

It is strongly advised that you discuss your application with your employer at the soonest possible time. When discussing your application, you should confirm employer support for you to apply and how you agree to manage ongoing support should be successfully awarded a funding and place of study offer. Please contact the SCIP team if you would like support discussing work and study arrangements.

Applicants must select one of the following work–study combinations: work full-time/study part-time, work part-time/study part-time, or work part-time/study full-time. Studying full-time while working full-time is not permitted and applications proposing this combination will not be accepted.

8. What does the award fund?

The SCIP award includes funding of full MSc tuition fees at one of participating Universities. The SCIP award also includes a stipend payment of £20,780 in total. This is a fixed amount, that is determined in accordance with UKRI rate recommendation. The stipend amount will be paid to you via your University. Payment is typically made in installments.

9. How much is the Stipend?

The Stipend available to you is set in line with the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) guidance. The stipend for 2025/26 is set at £20,780. The stipend amount will be paid to you via your University. Payment is typically made in installments and may be subject to your continued enrolment on the programme. If you are studying part-time the stipend will be divided over the two years of study. The stipend can be used to support your living costs whilst studying at University. The stipend is usually non-taxable and does not need to be paid back.

10. Where can I find more information?

More information is available on each of the participating University websites. Specific queries can be sent to scip.insight@soton.ac.uk.

11. Are international applicants eligible to apply?

After careful consideration we can accept international applications to NIHR SCIP. However, please note that we are not able to offer funding of international tuition fees; successful applicants will have their tuition fees paid up to the home-fee amount only. International applicants are therefore required to self-fund any difference between international and home student tuition fee amounts.

Award of funding may not be compatible with some visa requirements, and it is the applicant's responsibility to undertake all checks to ensure compliance.

The definition of an international student and the tuition fee rate can vary between our participating SCIP universities (Oxford Brookes University, University of Southampton, University of Winchester, University of Portsmouth, and Southampton Solent University). It is recommended that prospective applicants contact their first choice University before submitting an application to ensure eligibility to apply.

12. What happens if you are awarded a SCIP funding offer but not a university place or vice versa?

A SCIP funding offer will only be made once confirmation has been received from the University to which you have applied that you will be awarded a place of study. If all funded places at your first choice University have been filled, you meet the eligibility criteria for a funded place and you have indicated that you are happy for us to share your contact details with the other participating Universities on your application form, you may be offered funding and place of study at one of the other participating Universities. This is year 2 of a 3-year funding programme; if you are unsuccessful in your first attempt you may choose to apply in the next round of funding. Funding applications open once annually.

13. I missed the South-Central INSIGHT programme (SCIP) webinar, is there a recording of the webinar?

Yes, you can watch the recording here:

<https://brookes.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=893fd00b-1309-4660-8022-b3b700c3ef31>