

Everything you need to know about being our Policy Influencing Intern

About Parkinson's UK

We're Parkinson's UK. The charity that's here to support every Parkinson's journey, every step of the way. Wherever you're from, whatever you need.

We don't wait for change, we make it happen. We believe that together we'll find a cure. But that's not all we're working for. We campaign for better health and care, fund research into groundbreaking new treatments, and run life-changing support services.

Families, volunteers, campaigners, fundraisers, scientists, health and care workers. We're a powerful community united by one mission: improving life with Parkinson's.

The policy team

We are a team of four, researching and analysing health and social policy as it affects people with Parkinson's and using our insight to influence relevant government policy. Our current policy priorities include improving access to: healthcare, treatments, and disability-related social security entitlements for people living with Parkinson's.

The opportunity

We are recruiting for a Policy Influencing Intern to support the policy team's work to secure improvements to health and social security policies that impact on people affected by Parkinson's. This will include undertaking research and collating evidence to inform influencing activities, as well as monitoring policy changes.

About you

This policy influencing internship is an ideal opportunity for an ambitious, self-motivated individual who thrives in a small but dedicated team environment and who wants to develop their knowledge of policy making, engagement, and campaigns at a national health charity.

What you'll bring:

- An interest in influencing policy and a willingness to develop specialist policy knowledge to improve the lives of people affected by Parkinson's **(A,I)**
- A desire to work with people with lived experience of Parkinson's to help shape policy activities **(I)**
- Excellent analytical and communication skills, with the ability to collate complex information from varied sources into understandable reports for a range of stakeholders **(A,I)**

- The ability to work as part of a team and with a range of internal and external stakeholders **(A,I)**
- The ability to manage and meet deadlines and competing priorities **(A,I)**
- The ability to work accurately with a good eye for detail **(I)**
- An interest in developing political acumen to spot trends and opportunities to engage with policymakers, especially on issues that affect people with Parkinson's **(A,I)**

(A) indicates that this criteria will be assessed at the Application stage

(I) indicates that this criteria will be assessed at the Interview stage

What you'll do

You will work as part of Parkinson's UK's close knit policy team and help advance their health and social security policy work to improve the lives of people with Parkinson's and their care partners. You will be involved in at least two of the following activities:

- Undertaking research, collating evidence and drafting policy briefings, reports and consultation responses.
- Monitoring policy changes and providing in-depth policy analysis, research, and reports for internal stakeholders.
- Relationship building and engagement with sector stakeholders, including attendance at internal and external stakeholder meetings.
- Engaging with members of the Parkinson's community, external stakeholders and internal colleagues to shape our policy positions.
- Supporting the organisation of events and engagement with policy makers within Whitehall, Westminster, and other public bodies.
- Scoping new areas of policy work that are relevant to people with Parkinson's.

What you can expect from Parkinson's UK

By taking part in this internship, we expect candidates to gain valuable experience in:

- Policy analysis and influencing
- Communicating evidence to a range of stakeholders
- Collaborative working
- Engaging people with lived experience
- Working in the voluntary sector
- Developing networks

Supervision and support

You will be supervised by Sue Christoforou, Policy Manager (Financial Health), and will receive regular feedback and guidance. You will receive additional support from the relevant policy team member responsible for leading the project(s) that you will be working on. You will also have the opportunity to connect with and gain insight from relevant colleagues across the organisation, including in the campaigns, public affairs and communication teams.

Assessment criteria

Applicants will be assessed against the criteria set out in the 'what you'll bring' section above by reviewing applicants' CVs, supporting statements and at interview.

As part of the interview, we would be happy to discuss your professional development goals, and explore if and how the internship can be reasonably tailored to meet these professional development goals within the requirements of the role.

Eligibility requirements

This internship is open to Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)-funded PhD students enrolled in one of the following participating Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs):

- South Coast (SC) DTP
- CAM-DTP
- Grand Union DTP
- South East Doctoral Training Arc (SEDArc) DTP
- Northern Ireland and North East (NINE) DTP
- Welsh Graduate School for the Social Sciences (WGSSS) DTP
- LSE ESRC DTP
- London Interdisciplinary Social Science (LISS) DTP

Confirmation from the relevant office or budget holder that the candidate is in receipt of an ESRC doctoral award and is eligible to undertake the internship as part of their studentship is required on application.

A bit more about the opportunity

You'll report to the **Policy Manager (Financial Health)**.

Four internship placements are available and will run from **January–March 2026, April–June 2026, July–September 2026** and **October–December 2026**.

Your contract will be on a full-time basis for three months. You'll work **35 hours a week**, with core hours of 10am–4pm. We will consider condensed working hours.

This placement will be hybrid or remote, with any in person activities such as attending the Parkinson's UK office (50 Broadway, London, SW1H 0DB) to be agreed with the Policy Manager. **Travel expenses will not be covered by the charity.**

This role is unpaid and forms part of your doctoral training.

How to apply

Please apply through our careers portal on our website, [Linked here](#), by sending us your CV, together with a detailed supporting statement of no more than two pages. Your statement should set out how you meet the criteria of the placement as stated in the 'what you'll bring' section above.

When completing your application, please express your order of preference for the four internship slots that are available.

The vacancy will close on **27 October 2025**.

Interviews will take place online on **6 and 7 November 2025**. The interview will last 1 hour. Those invited to interview will be asked to deliver a short presentation, of no more than ten minutes, on a policy issue affecting people with Parkinson's that they believe needs to be addressed.