

# The Royal College of Psychiatrists Parliamentary Scholar Programme 2025

## **Overview:**

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The RCPsych and Professor the Baroness Hollins, former President run a successful special interest session for Psychiatric Resident Doctors ST4-6/Early Career SAS Psychiatrists\* with an interest in politics and current affairs.

The scheme gives senior Resident Doctors/Early Career SAS Psychiatrists the opportunity to spend one day a week at in Parliament – with opportunities to work in the House Lords – when Parliament is sitting (excludes any recess) - to develop leadership and other skills necessary to influence policy on Mental Health matters.

## **Details:**

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We are looking for up to five Psychiatric Resident Doctors ST4-6/Early Career SAS Psychiatrists drawn from the range of psychiatric subspecialties to use their special interest sessions/SPA time to develop experience in parliamentary affairs.

- The successful applicants will be appointed to the Scholar posts by the Royal College of Psychiatrists in collaboration with participating parliamentarians.
- Salary costs are covered already within existing contracts with their Local Educational Provider/Employing organization.
- Applications will only be considered from Psychiatric Resident Doctors (ST4-6/Early Career SAS Psychiatrists and are welcomed from across the UK.
- Applicants should submit a CV and written statement (no more than one side A4).
- Applications will require the written support of the applicant's Training Programme Director (TPD) and Head of School for residents or the Clinical or Medical Director for SAS psychiatrists.
- Any costs for travel and accommodation expenses for successful candidates would need to be met by the NHS Trust/Equivalent Body which employs the Scholar. The College is not in a position to meet these costs.
- Parliamentary Scholars will be hosted within the Royal College of Psychiatrists within the Strategic Communications Department, under the leadership of the External Affairs team.
- A regular supervision and education group will be held for the scholars in collaboration with participating parliamentarians and RCPsych Policy Campaigns, and Public Affairs staff.
- Baroness Hollins has very kindly agreed to assist in making approaches to other Peers in the House of Lords with interests in Mental Health issues to consider hosting a Parliamentary Scholar.
- Due to the unpredictability of Parliamentary work, some flexibility from Scholars and their educational and clinical supervisors/line managers will be expected regarding scheduling of work.

- The Scholars will be expected to be self-motivated and be able to work independently.
- Placements will be for between 6 - 12 months starting in September/October 2025 following the Conference recess.
- The acceptance of the position by the Scholar is contingent on approval by their TPD/Clinical Director as meeting their training and development needs, as well as on security clearance by the Sergeant at Arms Directorate at the Houses of Parliament.
- Learning Opportunities are likely to include:
  - Learning to carry out research and review of relevant topics, including legislation for debate
  - Learning to draft speeches
  - Following up ministerial responses
  - Attending ministerial briefings and meetings
  - Answering correspondence from interested parties on relevant issues
  - Liaising with policy staff from the Royal College of Psychiatrists and other relevant charities
  - Liaising with other parliamentary staff and members of the House of Lords
  - Organising meetings with respect to parliamentary affairs

Applicants are required to submit a CV and supporting statement (one side of A4) to [peter.hand@rcpsych.ac.uk](mailto:peter.hand@rcpsych.ac.uk) If you have any questions about the scheme you can also contact Peter Hand, Public affairs and Stakeholder Manager at [Peter.Hand@rcpsych.ac.uk](mailto:Peter.Hand@rcpsych.ac.uk)

**Closing date for applications Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025. Interviews will be held in person in Parliament in July 2025.**

\*Early career SAS psychiatrists are Speciality doctors working in psychiatry, currently below the Higher threshold of the 2021 Speciality doctor contract.