EPSRC DRIVE-Health Overview

The EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Data-Driven Health (DRIVE-Health) trains the next generation of health data scientists, computer scientists, engineers, and AI/machine learning researchers to support innovative, equitable, and sustainable global healthcare. Co-created with over 30 partners spanning the NHS, patients, health tech, and pharma, DRIVE-Health has been granted £8.9M in funding from EPSRC to 2032, with partner contributions bringing the total investment to £17M. DRIVE-Health's interdisciplinary training programme bridges the gap between technological advancements and complex healthcare challenges. Our students master core technical skills in data science, analytics, software engineering and statistics, as well as key enabling skills in translational science, evaluating novel health technologies, challenges in adoption and digital transformation, entrepreneurship, communications and engagement. Cohort and partnership-based delivery is key to this ambitious vision.

DRIVE-Health is hosted by King's College London, a leading international research institution for data-driven healthcare (ranked 35 in the world). The Research Excellence Framework 2021 confirmed King's research excellence, ranking it 6th in the UK for research power and 3rd among UK multidisciplinary institutions for impact. The wider environment includes King's Health Partners, London AI Centre for Value-Based Healthcare, and the King's AI Institute.

Output

DRIVE-Health will train a minimum of 85 doctoral students over five cohorts and deliver the EPSRC strategy for Transforming Health and Healthcare. It provides safe and secure access to data resources including electronic health records (EHRs), championed by world-class academic leadership, supported by specialist professionals and a dedicated operations team.

Expected impact

There is a rapidly growing demand for experts who can harness the power of data to advance healthcare delivery and improve population health. The interdisciplinary DRIVE-Health programme will ultimately lead to better healthcare outcomes for individuals and communities across the full breadth of socio-demographic groupings, and drive innovation and adoption in global patient care and population health.

We are encouraged by the growing interest in DRIVE-Health, particularly in the sharp rise in 2025 applications: from ~200 (30 home) in 2024/25 to over 600 (130 home) for the 2025/26 intake. This growth reflects increasing national and international recognition of the Centre's focus on data-driven health and our interdisciplinary approach. The calibre and diversity of applicants has improved significantly over the past two years, reinforcing our confidence in the programme's strategic positioning.