



## Amber De Craemer

- **Current Role:** Site Manager/CRA at IQVIA
- **STAR Programme:** Junior CRA
- **Programme Year:** September 2024

### Amber's Journey: Kickstarting a Clinical Research Career with ECCRT's STAR Programme



#### Before the STAR Programme

In June 2024, I graduated as a pharmacist with a strong academic foundation but limited hands-on industry experience. While I had gained valuable knowledge through my studies, I struggled to find a job that I was truly passionate about. I knew I wanted to do something within clinical trials, but most roles required prior experience. I needed experience to get a job, but I needed a job to gain experience. My goal was to gain practical skills, explore different career paths within the field, and find a role that genuinely aligned with my interests and long-term aspirations.



#### Why ECCRT?

I chose ECCRT and the Junior Clinical Researcher STAR Programme because it offered exactly what I was looking for namely, the opportunity to gain experience through internships while being supported by an experienced mentor who could guide me in shaping a clear career path within clinical trials. What attracted me most to ECCRT was the change to work in multiple companies and get to know the different aspect within clinical trials. The combination of theoretical learning and real internship opportunities made the STAR programme stand out. Overall, it felt like the right step to bridge the gap between my academic background and a fulfilling role in clinical research.



## Experience During the Programme

The STAR programme offered the combination of a week training and the opportunity to gain practical experience in different companies over a longer period, while being closely followed up by a mentor at ECCRT. I completed two internships, one as a study coordinator and another as a site manager, which gave me valuable insight into the day-to-day operations of clinical trials from different perspectives. What really stood out to me was the mentorship and support from ECCRT. It was reassuring and motivating to be followed up so closely by someone who genuinely cared about my progress.



## Where Are You Now?

After completing my second internship of the ECCRT programme, I was offered a position as a Site Manager/CRA. The STAR Programme played a key role in this transition, equipping me with the confidence, practical knowledge, and hands-on experience I needed to grow from a student into a capable junior clinical researcher, ready to launch my career in clinical trials.



## Final Word of Advice

If you're passionate about clinical research but unsure how to break into the field, the STAR Programme is the perfect starting point. It gives you the skills, experience, and support you need to launch your career with confidence.