

Healthcare Science Innovation Fellowships Programme: Access to Innovation Module

Frequently Asked Questions

Item	Question	Response
Programme information - Associate	What is the purpose of the Programme?	To develop innovation skills in Healthcare Scientists. The intention is to maximise and apply their scientific background in preparation for new roles and more flexible ways of working.
	What will the Associate gain by doing the Innovation Module of the Programme?	Training in the process of innovating and evaluating new healthcare technologies. It will offer the opportunity to 'test the water' of the Programme without having committed to undertake an Innovation Project. Those who access the Innovation Module will be encouraged to apply for the 8-month project part of the Fellowship in the next cohort of Fellows later in 2023.
	What is the Host Trust/Health Board expected to provide to Programme Associates?	A commitment to support the Associate by providing 1-2 sessions per week of protected study time for 4 months. This will include time to plan an innovation project, which could be undertaken later within the Trust/Health Board, potentially with a bursary if successful in application to the full Innovation Fellowship. The agreement of the Associate's employer for the protected time will be a requirement of the application.
	Who will deliver the Programme?	The NIHR Devices for Dignity MedTech Co-operative (www.devicesfordignity.org.uk) will deliver the learning content and will provide mentoring support.
	How will the Programme be delivered?	Using a blended approach of online coursework broken into modules and hosted on a bespoke platform.
	What is the expected time commitment?	Associates and their departments are expected to commit on average 1-2 sessions per week for the programme over 4 months. There will be opportunity to meet virtually with mentors over the 4 months,



		along with other Fellows/Associates and the Devices for Dignity team.
	How flexible is the course content – can Associates pick and choose parts of the course?	The expectation is that Associates will complete all the elements of the online ‘introduction to innovation’ learning resource designed as an integrated innovation course.
	Do I need to be working directly with patients?	No, but Associates will be encouraged when planning for future innovation projects to see the patient as a partner and to understand their journey.
	Does the interest in the Programme need to be linked to a product or innovation, or can it be about learning how to adopt and adapt innovation into the NHS?	It can be either, in planning for future projects there will be a requirement to consider plans for its adoption into the wider NHS system.
	Who is offering these modules, would there be long terms plans to offer these as standalones?	The Fellowship Programme is a collaboration between National School for Healthcare Science, the Office of the Chief Scientific Officer in NHS England and NIHR Devices for Dignity MedTech & In vitro Diagnostic Cooperative, (NIHR Devices for Dignity MIC), hosted by Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Access to the modules have not previously been a standalone offering. This opportunity is specific to NHS Wales through the Healthcare Science Cymru Programme, with funding from Health Education and Improvement Wales.
Who can apply	Is the programme open to all specialisms of healthcare scientists?	Yes. Applicants will need to demonstrate an aptitude for innovation.



	Is there a minimum grade of Healthcare Scientist that may apply?	Not explicitly. To benefit from the programme, it is a requirement that any applicant is in an established NHS post, has completed training appropriate to their discipline/specialism and has a minimum of 1 year's post-training experience. This Programme Associate opportunity is open to those in Wales only this year - the funding requires the NHS post to be based in Wales.
	Do you have to be a Registered Clinical Scientist?	No. The programme is for all Healthcare Scientists that are 1-year post qualification and working in the NHS, who are interested in the end to end pathway of medical technology development, with some relevant background.
	Is it suitable for someone experienced in implementation of the new, as opposed to design and invention?	Yes. Those involved in adopting new technologies, redesigning services to accommodate implementation of technologies or repurposing existing technology into new disciplines would be most welcome to apply.
Benefits to Fellows	Will completing the course count for CPD purposes?	Yes. The course content will be accredited by the CPD Accreditation Service and Programme Associates will receive certificates for completion of the online learning.
	What are the benefits of being an Innovation Programme Associate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising your profile within your own Trust/Health Board. • Mentoring from NIHR and NHS experts in healthcare technology innovation. • Networking with other innovators. • Engagement with the wider innovation landscape. • Preparation for applying to the full Innovation Fellowship Programme and project planning.
Benefits to the System	How will host departments and Trusts/Health Boards benefit from this Programme?	COVID-19 has demonstrated that Healthcare Scientists are a valuable and often untapped workforce for initiating and delivering healthcare innovation. This programme will demonstrate that with the right support and opportunity, Healthcare Scientists can contribute more to solving unmet innovation needs in Trusts/Health Boards and across other healthcare settings.



	How will the Healthcare Science community benefit from this Programme?	We expect that this programme will provide a valuable opportunity to extend the scope of the Healthcare Science workforce, offering those with the right motivation and inclination for innovation the tools to develop their skills.
How to Apply	What will candidates have to do to apply?	They will first need to discuss the opportunity with their department. They will then complete and submit an application, outlining the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Why they are interested in the programme. b) How they believe it will help them develop as a Healthcare Scientist. c) Indicate how they would aim to access the opportunities to complete the module on the learning platform and receive mentoring on a future project d) Indicate the need for potential technology innovation in their department.
	Are the application timelines fixed?	Yes, as detailed under application process section below.
Assessment Criteria	How will potential Fellows be selected?	Selection criteria will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to innovation, evidenced by the skillset/attitude/experience of the applicant • Commitment to access resources and mentoring opportunities offered • Stated support from host centre • Applicants should intend to complete an innovation project in future
Application process	What is the timescale for the Associate Innovation Fellow programme?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application opens: 12th June 2023 • Application closes: 23rd June 2023 • Interviews: 3rd July 2023 • Decision announced: w/c 3rd July 2023 • Programme opportunities available from: 17th July 2023 • Programme ends: 17th November 2023
Contact information	How do we find out more information?	The information will be publicised through the National School of Healthcare Science website https://nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/programmes/healthcare-science-innovation-fellowships/



