NICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME
PROJECT SUGGESTIONS

Introduction

You are required to make a proposal as to how you will spend your time as a scholar. The purpose of this document is to provide some suggested projects in areas that NICE would be keen to receive applications. This is not intended as an exhaustive list of proposals that will be accepted by the selection panel. NICE encourages you to propose a project which is in line with your expertise and interests and will contribute to increased quality of care. You should be realistic as to what is achievable within the 12 month time frame, with approximately 7.5 hours per week dedicated to the scholarship project.

Guidance

Scholarships are open to a wide range of individuals from across health, public health and social care and therefore many types of project will be suitable. You may find it useful to look at the types of projects previous scholars have carried out (scholars).

Before making a scholarship proposal, you should establish that:

- The project is feasible and methodologically robust
- All ethics and governance issues have been identified, including any local arrangements
- It can be completed within the 1 year period of your scholarship
- You have the necessary support of your employing organisation.

Examples

1. Implementation of guidance

NICE guidance delivers no benefit if it is not implemented. A proposal may be to implement one or more pieces of guidance.

NICE’s general guide on how to put its guidance into practice is available at http://www.nice.org.uk/About/What-we-do/Into-practice

NICE endorses tools to support the implementation of NICE guidance. More information can be found here:

https://www.nice.org.uk/about/what-we-do/into-practice/endorsement
A NICE project could involve reviewing aspects of care in your local area against metrics defined by NICE guidance. This could be via an audit.

2. Raising awareness of guidance

Targeted awareness raising is a key step in implementation. A project could involve selecting a guideline to be published early in 2018 and developing a communications plan to disseminate recommendations to target groups. This work could potentially link in to the National Guidelines Alliance dissemination of guidelines project.

3. Implementation of Quality Standards

NICE has a growing library of quality standards. They cover health, public health and social care and some cut across several areas. A proposal may wish to look at how a quality standard is being implemented in an area. This could be using the metrics associated with each quality standard.

Quality standards can be found here:

https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/published?type=QS

4. Science Policy and Research

NICE has an active science policy and research programme, which provides leadership and co-ordination for our research and development needs.

The team have a number of ongoing or planned research projects such as:

- Developing new quality of life measures
- Developing new methods for analysing non randomised data
- Researching which kinds of implementation support are most effective

NICE is interested in receiving applications in these areas.

5. Medicines and Technologies

NICE is piloting MAGICapp – a tool designed to support the creation of content in a structured form, enabling presentation to users in a layered format (for example, click through from recommendations to evidence) and use by other digital systems. A project supporting NICE with structured content would be valued.

6. Quality

NICE is interested in measuring the care provided by general practitioners against NICE guidelines and quality standards, particularly by extracting data that it routinely recorded within clinical IT systems.

7. Measuring the use of NICE guidance

The innovation scorecard is a way of measuring uptake of guidance. The scorecard assists the NHS in the identification of variation and adoption of NICE Technology Appraisals. It is currently in a new development phase so NICE is keen to receive applications from people who have an interest in Medical technologies, diagnostics and the accelerated access review.

8. Public Involvement

NICE would welcome a project looking at how to better engage with seldom heard groups, such as children and young people, BME communities etc.

NICE is keen to ensure guidelines highlight preference sensitive decision points, and make sure that they are framed in a way that can be used. A project looking at shared decision making (SDM) would be welcome. Understanding what patients want from SDM and the barriers to patient engagement and demand for SDM could be an option.

A scholar may want to pick a familiar subject area and look at the patient contribution to the local implementation of NICE guidance on this subject.

NICE produce quick guides for social care:

https://www.nice.org.uk/about/nice-communities/social-care/quick-guides

A project might look at recently published quick guides aimed at users and carers or the user experience.

NICE would value a project looking at gathering patient evidence from web boards and for a. For example, how other organisations do this; practical issues and methods.