

NICE SCHOLARSHIP ACTIVITIES: A GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

INTRODUCTION

You are required to make a proposal as to how you would spend your time as a Scholar. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on the sorts of activities that might be appropriate for NICE Scholarships. It is important to note, however, that this document is only a guide. It is not intended as an exhaustive list of the type of proposals that will be accepted by the selectors. 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 dedicated to the Scholarship per week.

GUIDANCE

All activity proposals should make it clear how the activities proposed will help to bring about improvement in the quality of care and how the activities proposed are relevant to the work of NICE.

Before writing your activity proposals, you should consult the NICE website (www.nice.org.uk) to gain a clear understanding of the role of NICE and the range of things that NICE does.

You will need to demonstrate how the activities proposed will contribute to your own professional development and the development of your organisation.

You will need to provide a proposal that describes the project that you would like to carry out over the 12 month period. Some examples of suitable projects are given below. This is not an exhaustive list but provides examples of the type of projects that might be appropriate. NICE Scholarships are open to a wide range of health, public health and social care professionals and therefore many types of projects will be suitable. You may also find it useful to look at the type of projects previous scholars have carried out ([NICE 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 requirements. You will be responsible for these arrangements.
- it can be completed within the 1 year period of the scholarship
- you have the necessary support of your employing organisation
- you have identified a suitable supervisor within your organisation.

Applicants should ensure that at least one of your 3 references comes from the person who has agreed to supervise the project.

Examples

1. Implementation projects

NICE guidance delivers no benefits if it is not implemented. A proposal may be to implement one or more pieces of NICE 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 criteria defined by NICE's guidance. This could be via an audit or by using the metrics associated with each quality standard to assess compliance.

2. Cost-effectiveness and affordability

NICE's guidelines and technology appraisals take into account not only the effectiveness of interventions but also their cost-effectiveness; they are concerned with value for money and recognise that health and social care budgets are finite and have to cover competing priorities. However, with increasing strain on budgets, concerns are still raised that the implementation of some NICE guidance is unaffordable.

Currently, very little work has been done to study what is actually displaced by NICE guidance or how such displacement decisions are made.

One approach to such a project would be to select one or more pieces of NICE guidance or a Quality Standard to be published towards the beginning of the your Scholarship and to observe how the guidance is implemented in the your local area, including commissioning and financing. Guidelines currently in development can be found here:

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment>

3. Equality

NICE is committed to promoting equality and eliminating unlawful discrimination. In developing all of its guidance it undertakes equality impact assessments. NICE consults stakeholders on whether its provisional recommendations indirectly discriminate against any groups protected by legislation or could be altered so as to promote greater equality.

As an important extension of these efforts, NICE would welcome proposals from applicants for Scholarships whose aim is to look at the equality impact of NICE guidance when it is implemented at the local level.

4. Patient Experience

NICE have produced patient experience guidelines and quality standards. A project may look at how these are being interpreted locally and what impact they are having. You may wish to look at a single aspect of patient care, for example, look at mechanisms for involving patients in decisions about their care, such as shared decision making tools.

5. Education

It is important that those employed in health and social care in the future are knowledgeable about NICE. You could look at how NICE could embed learning about NICE into education.

6. Social Care

NICE has now published its first piece of guidance for the social care sector. You could look at developing thinking and methodology around cost-effectiveness for social care guidance,

look at how NICE could improve engagement with the sector or look at how NICE products can really help deliver better services.

7. 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. As we develop guidance, we identify gaps and uncertainties in the evidence base which could benefit from further research through our [research recommendations](#).

We also identify methods research topics that could help to ensure our work is robust. We would welcome scholars who are interested in this area of our activity and suggestions for projects to develop NICE's science policy and research further.

We are also working with the Farr Institute and particularly interested in projects that focus on potential of health informatics in the context of NICE's work.