

Frequently asked questions

1. FAQs Relating to application

- **Do awardees have to be members of a BME community?**

No you do not need to be a member of a BME community.

The focus of the development award is on undertaking a project or other educational/development activity, to enhance patient/client-focused care that *benefits the health needs of people from black and minority ethnic communities*. The leadership awards are about leading and influencing developments and change in health care at a service, policy or educational level.

Health care professionals from all ethnic and cultural groups have a part to play in this. The ethnicity of the awardees and the nature of the project undertaken as part of the award may provide particular insights or perspectives which help towards these aims and the diversity of insights are valued.

All proposed projects for the development and leadership awards need to demonstrate they add value and contribute to enhancing the health and life chances of BME people.

- **Can the award be used to fund my degree, PhD or other training programme?**

The purpose of the award is not to fund training programmes. However, an award project may contribute towards part of a training programme.

An awardee and their mentors may also identify specific skills or vocational training that will help to develop them as a professional individual and this may be approved for funding from the award.

- **Can I complete my project as part of a first degree, PhD or other training programme**

Yes, the project can be completed as part of another training programme or research development activity. However, it is important that there is a clear delineation between where the contribution of the Mary Seacole project starts and finishes relative to the generic training programme. A report and study plan has to be produced for the selection panel which identifies this.

- **Do I need to be in 'clinical' practice?**

The award is open to nurses, health visitors and midwives who have a 'live' registration with the NMC.

For development awards it is expected that at least 50% of the awardees' time is spent in clinical practice. The key issue is being able to demonstrate how your proposed project/development activity will enable you to contribute to the

enhancement of patient/client focussed care. If this is not obvious from your proposal or within your employment role, you will need to make this explicit in your application.

- **I am an agency worker, can I apply?**

You must be an employee working in public services *involved in the delivery of care or involved in work that informs healthcare practice* within the NHS and with the support of his/her employer. Therefore, a privately employed agency worker would not be eligible. But a bank worker consistently employed by an NHS hospital may be eligible.

- **Are there any banding limits for applicants?**

No, providing an applicant meets the employment criteria at the point of their application, there are no band or grade limits.

- **Do I have to have an idea for my project before I apply?**

Yes you do. This has to be sufficiently developed so the steering group can make a judgment as to the appropriateness of your proposal. A proposal for the project must be submitted in your application along with a draft budget and a timeline for your project. This will inform part of the decision as to whether your project fulfils the criteria for the award and to evaluate it for funding.

- **Can I apply for funding for an overseas project?**

Currently the awards are only open to projects delivered in England.

- **What is the difference between the 'Development' and 'Leadership' award?**

The development awards may be more suited to those at the beginning of their service/research development career. It is a good opportunity to try out ideas for undertaking a project or other educational/development activity. The aim of this award is to increase the capabilities of individuals in shaping the health of BME communities.

The leadership awards are about much more than personal endeavours, they also require the individual to influence developments and changes within their area of work at a service, policy or educational level, involving not just their own professional activities but those of others. Their projects or the applications of the findings are far more wide reaching than the boundaries of their current place of work. In that sense it may be more suited to those ready to take 'the next step' in policy/service/educational development and innovation.

- **Can I apply jointly with a colleague?**

No, at present joint applications will not be considered for interview. This is because the funds relate to one project and the development and support of one individual.

- **Can I put forward a collaborative project?**

While it is possible your proposal may form part of a larger project, both the Development and Leadership awards stipulate a focus on a *specific* health care project with defined outcomes and timescales. The award will only fund activities directly related to your project/activity and you will be responsible for completing the award.