

To: • **Chief Pharmacists, Chief
Pharmacy Technicians, ICB Chief
Pharmacists, LPCs, Education
and Training Leads/networks**

NHS England
3 Piccadilly Place
Manchester
M1 3BN

1 May 2024

Dear Colleague

Re: Invitations for expressions of interest relating to pharmacy post-registration education funding

The North West School of Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation is seeking expressions of interest for skills investment funding for 2024-25. The funding is available to support post registration education and training for upskilling pharmacy staff who work in NHS organisations, or organisations providing NHS services across the North West of England.

We want to understand demand to support budget setting and allocation processes. We will look to support bids around workforce transformation investment priorities, for starts from the **1 of April 2024 to 31 March 2025**

The priority areas are:


- Clinical knowledge and skills development
- Mental health specialist knowledge
- Pharmacy technical and quality assurance
- Research Skills

The North West School of Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation invite bids for funding, by completion of this [survey](#) by **Monday 10:00am on 3 June 2024**.

Submissions made after the deadline will not be accepted.

Please note: The funding model this year will differ from previous years. A training contribution will be provided to support the learner with their development and may be used to fund supervision, training time and access to training programmes or other resources.

Funding contributions are for ONE YEAR ONLY which will be offered and payable to employers only.



Direct reimbursement of course fees will not be provided, and employers **MUST** arrange to pay any tuition fees or other costs directly.

Please see additional principles for funding, and FAQs below.

Principles for funding

- Funding to support one year of study only will be available and cannot be guaranteed for the second year.
- Please complete one application form per organisation.
- Funding will be provided for named learners only (name substitutions will need to be discussed and may not be approved).
- Funding for those trainees on programme entering year 2 will be prioritised; please confirm the named trainee(s) who will progress.
- If the scheme is oversubscribed, NHSE will allocate places/funding on a fair-share basis across the applying organisations.
- Any associated costs **must be paid for directly by your organisation** and the agreed NHSE training contribution will only be transferred to organisations via the NHSE Education Funding Agreement, funding will not be paid directly to education providers or individuals.
- Employers will be asked to evidence that the learner is enrolled in an education programme.
- Organisations must inform us at the earliest opportunity, where assigned funds cannot be utilised.
- Evidence of the impact of the funding will be required.
- This funding cannot be used where other funding is available (e.g. independent prescribing, ACP MSc). If other funding streams are available, you may be directed to access those instead.
- Funding will not be provided for short courses (e.g. 1 day), conferences, subscriptions, organisation membership fees or non-clinical/technical courses (e.g. leadership courses).
- Funding will not be offered retrospectively for starts prior to 1st April 2023 (i.e. where courses have commenced and been paid for)
- Late submissions will not be accepted.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jane Brown FRPharmS

Pharmacy Dean,

School of Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation

NHSE North West

Frequently Asked Questions

Should the application be completed by the individual or an employer?

Applications should be made by a manager on behalf of the individual who requires the funding. The individual can support the completion of the application, but it must be submitted by their manager.

Is there a limit of funding per person, per course?

Yes. A fixed funding contribution will be provided for each learner. Learners will usually only be supported to undertake one course or programme within the year.

Can funding be used for post-graduate clinical diplomas?

Yes. Applications can be made for a funding contribution for learners undertaking post-graduate clinical diplomas. This includes the specialist mental health diploma at Aston University.

Can funding be used for learners undertaking independent prescribing?

No. Non-medical prescribing funding is held/managed by trust non-medical prescribing leads for secondary care and the primary care training hubs for primary care. Funding has been provided based on reported demand with opportunities for review across the year. Please discuss with your non-medical prescribing lead.

Can the funding be used for independent prescribing if it is part of a post-graduate clinical diploma?

Yes. As we transition to a point where all pharmacists will be prescribers at the point of registration, we expect that where possible independent prescribing should be undertaken as part of the clinical diploma.

Can more than one application be made for the same person?

If an individual wishes to undertake more than one course in this financial year (e.g. 2 modules) then this should be included in a single application.

Can funds be used to retrospectively reimburse organisations for training that is currently underway?

Applications for training that has already commenced before the start of this financial year **will not** be considered i.e. courses started prior to 1 April 2023.

Is there a list of potential courses or programmes available?

It is up to individuals and their employers to decide on appropriate development requirements. The funds can be used for any course that supports the development of clinical or technical knowledge and skills, where other funding is unavailable.

Can funding be requested without knowledge of the course it will be used for?

No. Specific details of the desired course must be included in the application. A place on the course does not need to have been secured in advance of applying for funding; however, funding will not be released until evidence is provided confirming a place on the specified course or programme.