

Education Bursary Scheme Information Paper

Education Bursary Scheme

for Senior Nurses, Allied Health Professionals and Biomedical Healthcare Scientists and, Pharmacists within Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, & Oxfordshire), who aspire to achieve Advanced or Consultant Practitioner roles

1.	Background
	As part of modernising health & social care services it is extremely important to enable highly skilled clinical staff to remain in practice. The developing career framework within the NHS, underpinned by the Agenda for Change pay modernisation scheme, has clearly identified the roles of Advanced and Consultant Practitioners. Individuals in these roles are expected to have expert practice skills and in addition possess the appropriate theoretical, analytic and evaluative underpinning knowledge. In order to facilitate the implementation of such career pathways more fully as part of wider service modernisation and transformation, it is essential that individuals in these roles are equipped with the necessary skills in leadership, research and evaluation. To support this outcome NHS Education South Central (NESC) has developed an Education Bursary scheme which seeks to assist experienced clinicians who wish to develop these skills further and enhance their careers in practice in specific advanced and consultant practitioner roles.
2.	Eligibility Criteria
	> Current Registration with the appropriate regulatory body, eg NMC or the HPC.
	> An Honours degree at the level of 2.1 or above, or its equivalent
	> Currently employed by an NHS Trust or Social Services Department within the South Central SHA area
	> A minimum of 5 years of practice experience following qualification
	> Currently in a post graded at AfC level 6 (or its equivalent) or above;
	> Formal support from the employer, immediate line-manager and professional lead
	> Evidence of post-graduate development within the previous 5 years
	> Meet the entry criteria for the proposed programme
	> Evidence of career aspirations to become an Advanced or Consultant level Practitioner eg. from personal development plan
3.	Learning Activity or Programme
	Programmes whose learning outcomes include: leadership skills and/or skills in research, evaluation and service development. These programmes must be relevant to individuals working in practice and be at Masters or Doctoral level or equivalent.
4.	Support available
	Awards will be made on an annual basis, and can consist of any combination of the following
	> Fees contribution
	> Staff backfill contribution (clear figures are necessary to show how the amount was reached)
	> Travel and books contribution (clear figures are necessary to show how the amount was reached)

	<p>The maximum amount for any award for any individual in any year will be £7,500 and may be any combination of the above.</p> <p>Successful applicants will be encouraged to join a local education network.</p>
	<p>5. Procedure</p>
	<p>> Interested persons who meet the eligibility criteria listed above, should complete an application form (from Chrystine Gardner PA to Fleur Kitsell – 01962-893808).</p>
	<p>> Tuesday 31st July 2007: Deadline for application forms August 2007: Education Bursary Scheme Panel meet First week in September : Response to applications</p>
<p>Fleur Kitsell Head of Innovations, Development & Wider Workforce NHS Education South Central July 2007</p>	

NB Applications from individuals within Hampshire and Isle of Wight were processed earlier this year.