

Overview of IFIC's Fellowship Programme 2017/18

The International Foundation for Integrated Care invites mid- to high-level care professionals, managers and policy makers interested and/or involved in the design and delivery of integrated care programmes that seek to influence policy and practice. Fellows will work 'virtually' with leading international scholars and experts on the critical issue of integrated care and be invited to lead and connect with IFIC's growing membership network. A rich series of conferences, study visits and residential courses is included.

Fellows can expect to gain an in-depth understanding of the challenges involved in implementing integrated care effectively, develop valuable contacts, and gain from ongoing international exchange and collaboration across IFIC's members and associates. Fellows will be supported to work on an individually-tailored research topic of their choosing and relevant to their own context in a way that will work with and around their professional commitments and personal circumstances.

Applicants must demonstrate a strong interest in integrated care and submit a formal proposal that fits with IFIC's mission of advancing the science, knowledge and adoption of integrated care in policy and practice around the world.

Key Features

➤ Duration

The Fellowship would begin on 1st October and last 10 months (to end July). Fellows should be expected to devote up to one day per week of their time on the Fellowship.

➤ Qualifying Candidates

- Mid- to high-level care professionals, managers or policy-makers.
- Candidates must have a strong interest in integrated care policy and practice
- Candidates should be currently involved in the design, delivery, evaluation or commissioning of integrated care services
- Candidates should be specifically interested in practical implementation

➤ Entry and Selection Process:

- Entry is a competitive process and by application.
- The application should include:
 - The candidates CV, including contact details
 - A covering letter providing a personal statement on the candidate's professional objectives including any professional accomplishments. Previous and current work in integrated care policy and practice should be outlined alongside future career plans.
 - A preliminary research proposal of no more than 4 sides of A4 that outlines what aspect of integrated care the candidate would like to focus upon during the fellowship. As a guide this should include:
 - The topic area for the proposal should be on an issue related to supporting the work of their sponsor organisation and/or the professional development of the candidate
 - The focus of the proposal should be oriented to practical adaptation – for example, as either/all of policy, implementation strategy and/or care design

- The proposal should seek to develop new knowledge in the field of integrated care and/or to bring together existing knowledge into a new synthesis
- The purpose and context of the proposal should be stated: i.e. problem/issue to be addressed; its significance to integrated care policy and practice, and within candidate's home country; specific research questions posed
- The research design (how the work will be conducted)
- Expected contribution of the proposal
- Work plan, including any proposed site visits or mentors
- Two professional references
- References or examples of written work by the candidate
- A statement that provides the method by which the costs of the fellowship shall be covered, both in terms of the fellowship fees but also in terms of the likely travel, accommodation and associated expenses required to cover the costs for attending key learning events such as IFIC's conferences, study tours and summer school
- A letter from the candidate's sponsor organisation that states:
 - Why they support the candidate, including how the fellowship will support their professional development;
 - Why the sponsor is interested in integrated care, including how the fellowship is likely to benefit the sponsor organisation;
 - The sponsor is willing to provide the fellow with the protected time required to effectively engage with the Fellowship
 - That the sponsor endorses the candidate's research proposal

➤ **Costs**

- Fellowships are self-financing.
- The cost of the Fellowship is £15,000 GBP
- The cost includes one-year membership of IFIC, free access to all IFIC events, and mentoring support
- The cost does *not* include a provision for travel, accommodation or other expenses related to the ability of the Fellow to attend IFIC events or other related activities

➤ **Support**

- Depending on the nature of the Fellow's work, IFIC will identify a suitable person to act as a 'mentor' for the duration of the Fellowship. This support will comprise:
 - Six days of one-to-one mentoring support
 - Technical support, for example in linking in with the IFIC membership and its special interest groups
 - Supporting links to resources, people, case studies etc

➤ **Outputs**

- Each Fellow must provide a written report on their fellowship for their sponsor organisation, as agreed from the outset, to be submitted at the end of the Fellowship.
- A perspective paper written for the International Journal of Integrated Care that examines the learning from the Fellowship and summarises the findings/implications of their work. This should be submitted in May. Support will be provided in the writing of the paper.
- Two blogs for the IFIC website – one near the beginning that introduces yourself and the fellowship work (October) and one closer to the end that describes your experiences of the Fellowship and the lessons gained (June/July)
- A PPT presentation(s) made at the ICIC conference.

Example Core Activities Fellows 2016/17:

- o October 2016
 - One-to-one to support with IFIC experts to develop the Fellow's proposal and create a personalised plan and timetable for the duration of the Fellowship (October).
 - Blog for IFIC website
- o November/December 2016
 - Revised version of Fellow's proposal developed and agreed
 - Launch of IFIC Special Interest Group (SIG) related to Fellows' proposed topic (or inclusion in existing SIG of same/similar topic)
 - Attendance at World Congress on Integrated Care (4th World Congress in Wellington, New Zealand on 23-25 November, including attending the Essential Skills course of the Integrated Care Academy © and the policy stakeholder dinner. Face-to-face meeting with IFIC experts and staff
- o January-March 2017
 - Ongoing facilitated work on literature reviews / investigations / interviews / site visits related to the Fellow's proposed topic
 - Continued facilitation of the SIG
- o April 2017
 - Attendance on IFIC's Three Countries Study Tour 2017 (Scotland, England and Wales)
- o May 2017
 - Submission of draft Fellowship report
 - Submission of draft Perspective Paper for the International Journal of Integrated Care
 - Attendance at International Conference on Integrated Care (17th International Congress in Dublin, Ireland, on 8-10 May, including a speaker slot for presentation / development of a workshop session related to the SIG
- o June/July 2017
 - Attendance at the 2nd International Summer School on Integrated Care at Wolfson College, Oxford
- o July 2017
 - Submission and publication of final Fellowship report, power-points and perspective paper
 - Blog for IFIC website