IFIC Fellowship Programme, 2019/20

Overview of IFIC’s Fellowship Programme
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 of the Fellowship

➢ Duration
  o The Fellowship starts on 1st October 2019 and lasts 10 months (to the end of July 2020).
  o Fellows should be expected to devote up to one day per week of their time on the Fellowship

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

➢ Entry and Selection Process:
  o Entry is a competitive process and by application.
  o The application should include:
    ▪ The candidate’s 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; it’s 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

Up to 2 candidates a year will be selected onto the programme

Core Activities Timeline for 2019/20

October 2019

- One-to-one to support with IFIC experts to develop the Fellow’s proposal;
- Identification of potential mentors;
- Creation of a personalised plan and timetable for the duration of the Fellowship;
- Biography, headshot and blog created for the IFIC website (the blog should be on the reasons for applying for the Fellowship and the issues and learning goals the Fellow seeks to address)

November/December 2019

- Revised version of Fellow’s proposal developed and agreed
- Launch of an IFIC Special Interest Group (SIG) related to Fellows’ proposed topic (or inclusion in existing SIG of same/similar topic)
➢ Invitation to attend the IFIC Australia Accelerated Learning Programme, Orange, NSW on 4-8 November 2019
➢ Attendance at 2nd Asia-Pacific Congress on Integrated Care (APIC2) in Melbourne, Australia, 11-13 November 2019 including any fringe activities

January-March 2020
➢ Ongoing facilitated work on literature reviews / investigations / interviews / site visits related to the Fellow’s proposed topic
➢ Continued facilitation of the SIG
➢ Establishment of European study visits

April-May 2020
➢ Potential placement at IFIC’s offices in Oxford, UK
➢ Study visit schedule developed in Europe
➢ Attendance at 20th International Congress in Sibenik, Croatia, on 27-29 April 2020
   o including a speaker slot for presentation / development of a workshop session related to the SIG
➢ Submission of draft Fellowship report

June-July 2020
➢ Submission of final Fellowship report, including a power-points presentation
➢ Submission of Perspective Paper for the International Journal of Integrated Care
➢ Optional attendance at the International Summer School on Integrated Care at Wolfson College, Oxford, UK (date TBC)
➢ Final blog for Blog for IFIC website
➢ Publication of Fellowship report, power-points and perspective paper

IFIC Faculty Support
IFIC will identify a suitable person(s) to act as a ‘mentor’ for the duration of the Fellowship. This support will comprise
➢ No less than 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 accessing literature, resources, people, case studies etc

Core Outputs
➢ The 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.
➢ The Fellow should write a perspective paper of no more than 1500 words written for the International Journal of Integrated Care that examines the learning from the Fellowship and summarises the findings/implications of their work.
➢ The Fellow will contribute at least two blogs for the IFIC website – one near the beginning that introduces himself and the fellowship work (October) and one closer to the end that describes his experiences of the Fellowship and the lessons gained (June/July)
➢ A power-point presentation(s) made at the ICIC20 conference in Sibenik on 27-29 April 2020, potentially to be revised and re-submitted alongside the Fellow’s final report