**Global Health Partnerships Directorate**

**Global Health Partners Framework Request for Information (RFI)**

**Health Education England (HEE)**

The Global Health Partnerships Directorate at HEE builds international partnerships to strengthen health systems and services in England and across the world. To achieve this, it works with partners to plan, educate and train an international health workforce.

HEE is inviting expressions of interest from NHS providers and local systems within England to join the ‘Global Health Partners Framework’. When organisations are members of this framework, they will be notified of new partnership opportunities that arise with HEE and its international partners.

**Why complete this form?**

This RFI form is the first step in the procurement process to populate the Framework. Organisations which respond to the RFI will be invited to join the Framework at the appropriate time. Responses at this point will not have a bearing on any future tender bids you may wish to submit.

1. **Please return the questionnaire as fully as you can by sending as an attachment via the messaging system within the e-tendering portal.**
2. **Please return the form to us by:**

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| **12 noon 20th July 2021** |

Please read the text below before attempting to answer any of the questions.The details contained in this RFI are subject to change and are included here only as a guide. It does not constitute a formal commitment to commission this service.

If you would like to ask further information with respect to any aspects of the requirements, please send a message via the e-portal system.

All responses will remain confidential. Please provide your name and contact details in the table below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Organisation name** | **Your name** | **Telephone** | **Email** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Date completed:** | | | |

**HEE Global Health Partners Framework**

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| **1. Background** |
| The Global Health Partnerships Directorate at HEE builds international partnerships to strengthen health systems and services in England and across the world. Working with partners to plan, educate and train an international health workforce.  **Global Health Partners Framework**  The Global Health Partnerships Directorate is seeking NHS provider groups and local NHS system groups to partner with on new global opportunities. In the first stage, HEE is requesting Expressions of Interest to join a Framework of NHS partners, by completing the attached Request for Information (RFI) form.    A second procurement exercise will be held to populate the Framework. Once on the Framework, providers will have the opportunity to register interest in specific new partnerships.  Key opportunities include:   * Volunteering and educational placements for NHS staff internationally * Support for managed fixed-term recruitment of international staff * Knowledge exchange and capability-building with international governments and health systems.     **Essential criteria to join the Framework**  The Framework will be open to NHS systems and providers which take NHS trainees, including Integrated Care Systems (ICS), Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs), Foundation Trusts, and University Hospitals.    NHS organisations can join the Framework individually or as part of a consortium or system. HEE strongly recommends providers collaborate with other healthcare providers, Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) and social care providers to improve their chances of hosting partnerships. A lead provider can be identified to complete the compliance process.  **Why organisations should apply to the Global Health Partners Framework**    By joining the Framework, NHS providers and local systems will gain access to new opportunities for international partnerships with HEE.  Benefits to the NHS include:   * Two-way sustainable pipelines for international recruitment and global learning * Cost-effective international fixed-term recruitment to fill staffing gaps and reduce bank and agency spend * Global opportunities for staff to develop new skills in an international setting.     Each individual partnership will be different, however all partnerships are underpinned by co-development and transparency, ensuring that all countries and partners benefit.  Global Health Partnerships will host a webinar in July 2021 to share more information with organisations. Please contact [global.partnerships@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:global.partnerships@hee.nhs.uk) for the invite.    **Case Studies**    **Managed Education Partnerships (MEPs)**    Managed Education Partnerships are government-to-government healthcare staff exchange programmes. They are cyclical, sustainable and mutually beneficial partnerships between the English NHS and international health systems. Partnerships aim to build the international health workforce and prevent unsustainable international recruitment.    MEPs are a response to specific requests from partner governments and are uniquely tailored to suit the needs of both health systems. Exchanges include doctors, nurses and other clinical professionals moving in both directions on placements from one to three years.   They can also include system-to-system knowledge exchange and capability building.    **NHS staff leadership placements internationally**    HEE is mandated by the government to support NHS volunteering, which includes supporting and encouraging NHS staff to take advantage of volunteering opportunities within health and social care and working with senior operational leadership to increase recognition of the value of volunteering.  HEE recruits volunteers from the NHS who are awarded a Fellowship and are known as Improving Global Health (IGH) Fellows. Each IGH Fellow completes a placement for six months working with an overseas partner in a resource-poor setting.  Drawn from all staff groups, the IGH programme enables volunteers to develop leadership skills through project work using system-strengthening methods. The projects, based in a number of overseas locations, contribute to improving healthcare in the local area in a sustainable way.    **Technical Collaboration Consultancy Services**    HEE provides Technical Collaboration Consultancy Services to facilitate system-to-system workforce capability-building partnerships. HEE supports global partners and the NHS through health systems strengthening to expand Universal Healthcare Coverage (UHC).  We specialise in providing access to NHS workforce expertise for system-to-system knowledge exchange; in-depth strategic analysis and advice; and long-term implementation support for programmes.    For example, since 2016, HEE has been working with the Government of West Bengal, India and a Higher Education Institute partner to collaborate on the development of nurse leadership and advanced clinical practice. The programme focused on developing work-based training methodologies through a train-the-trainer approach with workshops designed to empower nurses to develop and deliver their own work-based training.  **The process for establishing new partnerships**    New partnerships will be tendered to the organisations on the Framework for consideration. To select an NHS organisation for each partnership, HEE will ask for expressions of interest and decide with the international partner.  Some partnerships will have additional quality assurance criteria. For example, for Managed Education Partnerships, NHS providers and local systems will need to meet HEE’s international recruitment quality criteria.    Three themes of assurances will be required from NHS systems or providers to join Managed Education Partnerships:   1. Effectiveness and quality of the organisational environment 2. Quality of the learning environment 3. Commitment to implementing the ethical standards of the partnerships.   More information will be shared when new partnerships are tendered to the Framework. |

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| **2. Key information related to the RFI** |
| The key deliverables of the draft specification for this procurement are:   * Completed compliance form to join the Framework * Completed expression of interest forms for new partnership opportunities. |

| **3. Request for Information response**  Please respond to each of the following questions: | | | |
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|  | **Question** | **Response** | |
| 1 | **Would your organisation be interested in joining a Framework of NHS Global Health Partners? (Yes/No)** |  | |
| 2 | HEE has various models for Global Health Partnerships, including: volunteering and placements for NHS staff; fixed-term placements for international staff; capability-building technical knowledge exchange; and Managed Education Partnerships, which combine multiple models. See case studies.  **Which models of partnership would your organisation be interested in joining?**  **Please specify on a scale of 1 – very uninterested to 5 - very-interested in:**   * **Placements for NHS staff** * **Placements for international staff** * **Capability-building and knowledge exchange.** | **Partnership** | **Score (1- very uninterested to 5 – very interested)** |
| Placements for NHS staff |  |
| Placements for international staff |  |
| Capability-building and knowledge exchange |  |
| 3 | **Are there any other forms of partnership you think HEE and its partners should consider in the future?** |  | |
| 4 | Some opportunities may be popular with organisations on the Framework.  **We would like your view on how you think HEE and international partners should select an NHS partner from the Framework. For instance, which if the following do you think are appropriate and why?**   * **Score organisation’s bid-responses on quality criteria** * **Allocate partnerships centrally through HEE**   **Are there other ways of selection that you think would be useful?** |  | |
| 5 | HEE has additional quality criteria for hosting Managed Education Partnerships, which typically include fixed-term placements for healthcare staff from countries on the NHS Code of Practice for International Recruitment red list. These criteria cover:   1. Effectiveness and quality of the organisational environment 2. Quality of the learning environment 3. Commitment to implementing the ethical standards of the partnerships.   **How would your organisation demonstrate it meets the three assurances required to join a Managed Education Partnership?** |  | |

Please return your completed document using the information shown on page two.

**Thank you. We appreciate your help and time to consider the documentation provided and to enter your views in this RFI.**