

Case for Direct Award to Keele University and University of London to deliver a fully integrated blended learning Global Health Masters programme that wholly utilises current and emergent digital and other technologies

Health Education England (HEE) has legislative responsibility to ensure that our future workforce is available in the right numbers and has the necessary skills, values and behaviours to meet patients' needs and deliver high quality care.

As the NHS workforce organisation for England, HEE is uniquely placed to support the NHS to become a global centre of excellence for workforce development. HEE can do this by embedding global skills, learning and innovation, supporting local NHS organisations to engage in global activity as a way to attract and retain staff, bringing experienced overseas staff to work in the NHS on placements and also by playing a facilitative role to ensure the collective efforts and expertise of the NHS is coordinated and aligned to the overseas objectives of Government departments including DFID, FCO, DHSC.

Further to this, HEE seeks to develop leadership and management in Global health to support a cadre of leaders who will help address health delivery and workforce issues with reference to global health activities and learning.

Health Education England [HEE] believes that Keele University and University of London are capable and very well placed to deliver the specific requirements of the Blended Learning Global Health Masters programme in line with HEE's workforce planning, Global Engagement and Blended Learning programmes.

The two institutions have strong links with partner Universities globally and have a robust capable national and international faculty expertise that spans across various disciplines to assist HEE in fulfilling its agenda in the Global health and engagement space.

HEE currently offers a leadership development programme to improve Global health and engaging with these academic partners will further enhance the current programme.

Healthcare is increasingly a global commodity. The advent of the virtual healthcare environment and the greater mobility of the healthcare workforce means that no country can purely think about healthcare based exclusively on what happens within its own borders. Even where individuals intend to remain working in one healthcare system, allowing them to understand and explore global healthcare systems develops people more likely to 'think out of the box' and enhances their approach to transformational leadership.

The proposed programme will attract international applicants from multiple health and policy professional backgrounds.

While there are existing Global health masters programme, there's evidence that existing programmes does not attract diverse groups which brings additional value to learning. The proposed programme will be unique in bringing academic partners together with various directorates in HEE to establish a programme that,

- will focus on widening access and increasing participation for individual groups from diverse backgrounds
- fully utilises current and emerging innovative technologies to provide a course that is not fully online but utilises synchronous and asynchronous learning, visits, placements etc. to provide a wholly integrated blended learning programme
- will develop global health leaders with strong digital capabilities and understanding of the role digital and innovative technologies in health care service delivery and transformation

HEE believes that the two Universities identified for this partnership,

1. already have links to countries that HEE is working with as part of its Global engagement programme
2. both have a track record of delivering innovative projects in education
3. have existing strong relationship with HEE in the successful delivery of health educational programmes
4. have expertise and established programmes in delivering global health education
5. are both world leading institutions that provide quality tertiary education to a wide range of students, including international students

The duration of the direct award is three years to:

To successfully establish the programme and develop strong collaborations with other partners or strengthen existing relationships with international partnering University.

If the development of Global health leaders is not established, it will impact on the Global Engagement work that HEE is delivering internationally and the potentially to affect the reciprocal learning that health and policy leaders from England get from the programme.

It will impact on developing global leaders with understanding of other health systems and the workforce, also something that can impact on HEE's international recruitment programme.

It could also impact of HEE's reputation with existing international partnerships and overall stakeholder engagement.

END

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