



## **ASPIRE RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN INSPIRATIONAL AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This ASPIRE award focuses on Inspirational Approaches to health professions and veterinary medicine education. It recognizes institutional excellence in innovations that address important gaps and can demonstrate impact. These can also include overcoming economic, cultural, technological, or other barriers that move health professions education forward on a local, national, or international level.

The subject of the submission may also in part be covered in other ASPIRE award programs (e.g., Curriculum Development, Social Accountability), but here the focus is on innovation and exemplary efforts to overcome contextual difficulties.

The criteria for excellence in this category involve innovations that are well planned (e.g., based on needs assessments), successfully implemented (e.g., overcoming barriers over an extended period of time), well studied (e.g., with robust program evaluations), and programs that inspire others to consider similar improvements (e.g., through presentations and publications).

**Please remember that we are looking to recognise and reward excellence. The evidence provided by you must be convincing and well documented. We are NOT looking for activities that are in theoretical or development. They must have been completed and have appropriate evaluation and evidence of impact.**

### **EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE AREAS OF EXCELLENCE**

While it is not possible to predict the areas in which institutions may wish to be recognised for their excellence in innovation, here are some creative examples which could be considered for a submission. Highlight how your initiative is different from what is described in the literature, and/or how you overcame unique challenges resulting from your culture, resources, or institution.

- ***Patients as educators:*** The institution has developed a unique approach in which patients play a significant role as educators that goes beyond traditional literature and represents a major success for the programme.
- ***The learning environment:*** Special attention is paid to the educational environment that facilitates learning and is supportive of learners' health and well-being in unique and creative ways.
- ***Interprofessional education:*** The education programme has significant elements of interprofessional training, and has creatively overcome the typical challenges of such multi-professional initiatives.
- ***Educational innovation and research:*** Staff are encouraged and supported in the scholarship of learning and teaching. The resulting innovations are fully integrated into the curriculum.
- ***Learners as peers and future educators:*** Learners are encouraged to develop an interest in education and acquiring the relevant skills is fully integrated in the curriculum. They are supported to participate in health profession education courses and conferences.
- ***International flavour:*** A school engages in international collaborations related to innovation in education and research. International placements for staff and students are encouraged. A joint degree with another school may be offered.

## **THE SUBMISSION PROCESS**

Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the panel chair for an informal discussion before beginning their application - TBC

Different from the other ASPIRE themes, the Inspirational and Innovative Approaches Panel has a two-stage submission process.

In the first stage, the school, college or institution will provide a preliminary Letter of Intent. It has to describe the area or theme where excellence will be claimed, provide a justification for the claim, and describe the nature of the evidence that will be provided to support the submission. See the Letter of Intent form for details. No charge will be applicable at this stage.

During this first stage, the submission will be reviewed by the Chair and several members of the panel, and a decision will be made about inviting a full application. The feedback to the applicant will include areas of strength and suggestions for improvements or recommendations for a successful submission.

If the initial application is accepted, a full submission will be invited together with an invoice for payment of the standard application fee.

## **CRITERIA AND EVIDENCE OF EXCELLENCE**

### **CRITERION 1 – NEEDS ASSESSMENT:**

The inspirational and innovative initiative adopted has a clear rationale of how the need for this initiative was determined. For example:

- Describe how you determined the need of this initiative. Provide evidence of a needs assessment and describe how the goals of the initiative are aligned with the needs assessment.  
*For example, was it:*
  - Because of an accreditation requirements or efforts to align with the school’s mission, organisational priorities and objectives.
  - Based on local, national, global data, performance gaps, logistical challenges the school was facing.
  - Tailored to the needs of your community and health system challenges.
- Provide evidence on how the goals of the initiative are aligned with the needs assessment.
- Provide evidence on how your program helps to improve educational practice?

### **CRITERION 2 – PLANNING:**

The inspirational and innovative initiative was planned in a systematic manner, involving key stakeholders (students, faculty, primary target group) in the planning.

- What was the theoretical or conceptual framework underpinning the planning of this initiative. Use references from the literature, theories, or best practices. Here are some examples you might explore: : <https://www.instructionaldesign.org/theories/>
- Provide evidence on how the design of the initiative addresses the needs described in Criterion 1.
- Illustrate how you engaged your educators, learners, key stakeholders in the development and adoption of the initiative.
- Describe if and how the program addresses community needs.

### **CRITERION 3 – IMPLEMENTATION**

The inspirational and innovative approaches initiative has a clear description of the implementation plan, barriers, and adjustments. Attach a detailed description of the program – including, if available, a faculty guide, flyers to advertise the program, learner manuals etc. In addition:

- Describe any challenges you may have had to obtain adequate resources for implementing and evaluating the impact of your initiative, and how you overcame them.
- Describe any barriers you encountered with implementation and how you overcame them.
- Provide evidence on how you were able to build the capacity for long-term adoption and integration within the school’s ongoing operations.

### **CRITERION 4 – EVALUATION OF THE INITIATIVE**

The school has a systematic evaluation strategy of the inspirational and innovative initiative and there is evidence that it has had a positive impact on the stakeholders.

- Provide evidence on how the evaluation was guided using a rigorous and standardised process for developing and implementing outcome measures that assesses the impact of the initiative.
- Provide any tools used for the evaluation and demonstrate how they link to the goals.
- Describe how and to whom you have communicated the results and impact of the initiative.
- What are your next steps and future plans for enhancements or revisions based on evaluation findings.

