



ASPIRE RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATIVE AND INSPIRATIONAL APPROACHES TO HEALTH PROFESSION EDUCATION

CRITERIA

INTRODUCTION

This ASPIRE award focuses on Inspirational Approaches to health professions and veterinary medicine education. It recognises 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).

Potential 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 flavor**: 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.

There is a two-stage submission process. This is an important difference from the other ASPIRE themes.

In the first stage, the school, college or institution will identify in a preliminary Letter of Intent describing the area or theme where excellence is claimed together with a statement as to the justification for the claim and 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 made based on the importance and significance of the approach submitted. If the school is invited to submit a full application, the panel will provide from the longer list of criteria.

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 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 are aligned with the needs assessment.
- Provide evidence on how it helps to improve educational practice?

CRITERION 2 – PLANNING

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

- What 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 purpose/goals described in Criterion 1.
- Illustrate how you engaged your educators, learners, key stakeholders in the development and adoption of the initiative.
- Provide evidence on how your program has had an impact on the organizational climate.
- Describe if and how program fosters inter-professional experiences, develops teamwork, and addresses community needs.

CRITERION 3 – IMPLEMENTATION

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

- Describe any challenges you may have had to obtain adequate resources to implement and evaluate impact of your initiative, 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?
- Describe any barriers you encountered with implementation and how you overcame them.

CRITERION 4 – EVALUATION OF THE INSPIRATIONAL INITIATIVE

The school has a systematic evaluation strategy to determine the impact of the inspirational initiative and evidence that the initiative has had a positive effect on the learning environment. Provide evidence of the evaluation that was done to determine the impact of your program.

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

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