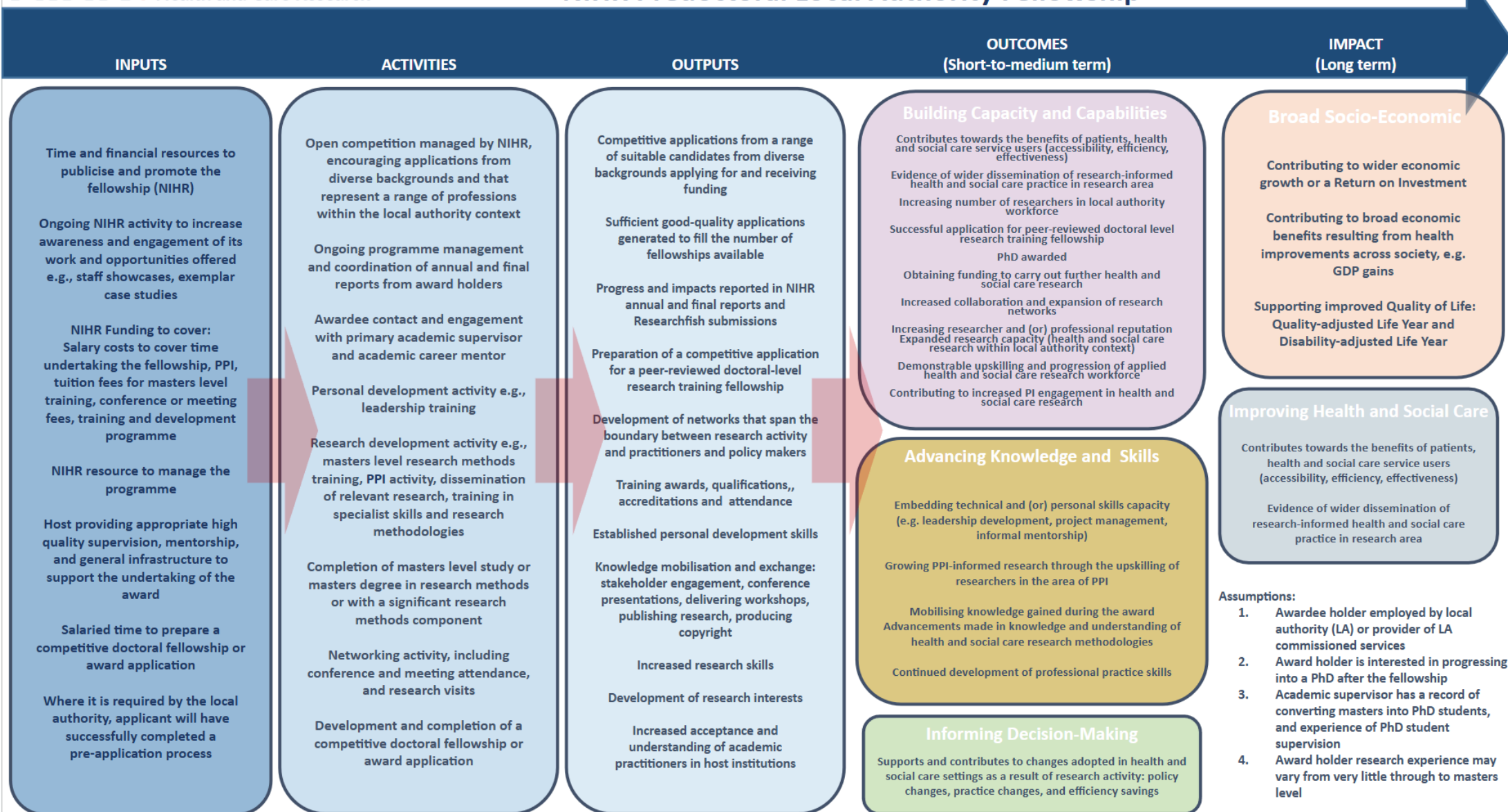


NIHR Predoctoral Local Authority Fellowship



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Introduction

The NIHR Pre-doctoral Local Authority Fellowship (PLAF) is a career development award designed to support individuals wishing to develop as health and (or) social care researcher whilst remaining employed. As a career development award, it supports the core workstream 'Attracting, training and supporting the best researchers... to tackle complex health and social care challenges' from Best Research for Best Health: The Next Chapter. In turn, this will contribute to the overarching mission of the NIHR which is to improve the health and wealth of the nation.

The NIHR uses logic models to visually represent how a programme or research award is expected to achieve the outcomes, and resultant impact, that are defined during the development process of a programme or research award. A logic model then becomes an important tool in the process of evaluating a programme or award, which in turn guides a learning process of how a programme can be altered to better achieve its aims. The logic model is a linear flow diagram that reads from left to right, and is divided into the following sections: inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes and impact.

Inputs

The first section in the logic model for the NIHR PLAF is the 'inputs'. The inputs are the resources that are made available so that the programme can operate and achieve its defined goals. The inputs in this logic model are:

- Time and financial resources to publicise and promote the fellowship (NIHR)
- Ongoing NIHR activity to increase awareness and engagement of its work and opportunities offered e.g., staff showcases, exemplar case studies

- NIHR Funding to cover:
 - Salary costs to cover time undertaking the fellowship, PPI, tuition fees for masters level training, conference or meeting fees, training and development programme
 - NIHR resource to manage the programme
 - Host providing appropriate high quality supervision, mentorship, and general infrastructure to support the undertaking of the award
 - Salaried time to prepare a competitive doctoral fellowship or award application
 - Where it is required by the local authority, applicant will have successfully completed a pre-application process

Activities

Following the logic model from left to right, the next part of this logic model is the activities section. These are the activities of the NIHR and the researchers who hold the awards, using the resources provided by the logic model inputs.

- Open competition managed by NIHR, encouraging applications from diverse backgrounds and that represent a range of professions within the local authority context
- Ongoing programme management and coordination of annual and final reports from award holders
- Awardee contact and engagement with primary academic supervisor and academic career mentor
- Personal development activity e.g., leadership training
- Research development activity e.g., masters level research methods training, PPI activity, dissemination of relevant research, training in specialist skills and research methodologies
- Completion of masters level study or masters degree in research methods or with a significant research methods component
- Networking activity, including conference and meeting attendance, and research visits
- Development and completion of a competitive doctoral fellowship or award application

Outputs

The next stage in the logic model, after the activities section, are the outputs. The outputs arise as a direct result of the previously defined activities. The outputs for this logic model are:

- Competitive applications from a range of suitable candidates from diverse

- backgrounds applying for and receiving funding
- Sufficient good-quality applications generated to fill the number of fellowships available
- Progress and impacts reported in NIHR annual and final reports and Researchfish submissions
- Preparation of a competitive application for a peer-reviewed doctoral-level research training fellowship
- Development of networks that span the boundary between research activity and practitioners and policy makers
- Training awards, qualifications,, accreditations and attendance
- Established personal development skills
- Knowledge mobilisation and exchange: stakeholder engagement, conference presentations, delivering workshops, publishing research, producing copyright
- Increased research skills
- Development of research interests
- Increased acceptance and understanding of academic practitioners in host institutions

Outcomes

The fourth part of the logic model is the outcomes section. Outcomes are the measurable, often medium-to-long-term, changes that we expect to see as a result of the programme or award taking place. The outcomes for this model are divided into the following five different sub-sections: building capacity, advancing knowledge and skills, informing decision-making, broad socio-economic, and health impact. The outcomes within each of the five sub-sections are listed here:

Building Capacity and Capabilities:

- Contributes towards the benefits of patients, health and social care service users (accessibility, efficiency, effectiveness)
- Evidence of wider dissemination of research-informed health and social care practice in research area
- Increasing number of researchers in local authority workforce
- Successful application for peer-reviewed doctoral level research training fellowship
- PhD awarded
- Obtaining funding to carry out further health and social care research
- Increased collaboration and expansion of research networks
- Increasing researcher and (or) professional reputation
- Expanded research capacity (health and social care research within local authority context)

- Demonstrable upskilling and progression of applied health and social care research workforce
- Contributing to increased PI engagement in health and social care research

Advancing Knowledge and Skills:

- Embedding technical and (or) personal skills capacity (e.g. leadership development, project management, informal mentorship)
- Growing PPI-informed research through the upskilling of researchers in the area of PPI
- Mobilising knowledge gained during the award
- Advancements made in knowledge and understanding of health and social care research methodologies
- Continued development of professional practice skills

Informing Decision-Making:

- Supports and contributes to changes adopted in health and social care settings as a result of research activity: policy changes, practice changes, and efficiency savings

Broad Socio-Economic:

- Contributing to wider economic growth or a Return on Investment
- Contributing to broad economic benefits resulting from health improvements across society, e.g. GDP gains
- Supporting improved Quality of Life: Quality-adjusted Life Year and Disability-adjusted Life Year

Improving Health and Social Care:

- Contributes towards the benefits of patients, health and social care service users (accessibility, efficiency, effectiveness)
- Evidence of wider dissemination of research-informed health and social care practice in research area

Assumptions

The assumptions included within the logic model are underlying principles, ideas, and beliefs that we hold about how an award will work. The assumptions may be about a number of different things, such as the external or internal environment of

the award, relevant stakeholders participation, or the problem that it seeks to address. The assumptions included in this logic model are:

- Awardee holder employed by local authority (LA) or provider of LA commissioned services
- Award holder is interested in progressing into a PhD after the fellowship
- Academic supervisor has a record of converting masters into PhD students, and experience of PhD student supervision
- Award holder research experience may vary from very little through to masters level

Contributions and acknowledgements

The NIHR supports the principles of open research, including full and appropriate recognition of the many varied contributions to the creation of knowledge. Those that have contributed to this work are listed alphabetically according to their surname.

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