**RCN Foundation call for applications**

The RCN Foundation seeks an organisation to undertake a project which aims to :

**Develop equitable access to practice learning experiences for undergraduate learning disability nursing students, including developing new and non-traditional practice placement settings that reflect emerging roles of learning disability nursing across Scotland.**

**Introduction**

The RCN Foundation is an independent charity (1134606 – England and Wales, SC043663 – Scotland) and a company limited by guarantee (7026001). It was set up in 2010 and aims to support and strengthen nursing to improve the health and well-being of the public. The Foundation delivers its purpose by:

* ***Supporting*** individual members of the nursing team (nurses, midwives and health care support workers) by providing grants for hardship and education purposes.
* ***Investing*** in the nursing profession to improve patient care by funding research and practice development projects in our priority areas.
* ***Championing*** nursing by raising the profile of the profession and public understanding of its contribution to improving the nation’s health.

Our grants are open to any current or former nurse, midwife or health care support worker, and they do not need to be a member of the RCN to receive support from the Foundation.

**Background**

A key grant-making priority for the RCN Foundation is Learning Disability Nursing. In 2019, the Foundation funded a scoping review by University of West London (UWL) to understand the impact that Registered Nurses for Learning Disability (RNLD) can have on improving the health and well-being of children, adults and older people with learning disabilities.

To complement the UWL review, the Foundation carried out further scoping work to identify specific challenges facing the Learning Disability Nursing field across the United Kingdom. This work identified challenges specific to the devolved nations in relation to learning disability nursing. As a result, it was agreed to fund a nurse-led project within each devolved nation with the aim of addressing the challenges unique to them.

**Scotland**

Learning Disability Nursing practice within Scotland is facing specific challenges, which have been identified through their own review of the evidence base and current practice. Like the rest of the UK, Scotland is facing challenges with the recruitment of undergraduate Learning Disability nursing students. Two urban Universities provide the BSc Learning Disability Nursing, with a further University hosting an online provision.

One of the greatest challenges for learning disability nursing provision in Scotland is the opportunity for undergraduate students to access practice placement settings, which map to the NMC (2018; 2024) standards for student supervision and assessment (SSSA). These challenges can impact on the workforce in localities, which in turn can contribute to the health inequalities people with lived experience of a learning disability frequently experience. This scenario was echoed in the discussions with individuals with lived experience of a learning disability from these areas, who described a ‘post-code lottery’ for care, often dependent upon access to a registered nurse for learning disabilities (RNLD).

### Call for applications

### The RCN Foundation is now seeking to fund a nurse-led project in Scotland that seeks to:

**Develop equitable access to practice learning experiences for undergraduate learning disability nursing students, including developing new and non-traditional practice placement settings that reflect emerging roles of learning disability nursing.**

**Aim**

This project will aim to grow practice placement capacity for undergraduate learning disability nursing students across Scotland, enhancing their experience whilst reducing attrition rates from programmes, with the view to growing the learning disability nursing workforce in Scotland. This will ultimately aim to address health inequality and improve health related quality of life outcomes for people with lived experience of a learning disability in Scotland.

**Objectives**

* An analysis of current practice placement models and capacity across health and social care settings in Scotland to identify the gaps in provision and experience.
* To develop new and non-traditional placement models that reflect contemporary and emerging roles within learning disability nursing across health and social care in Scotland.
* To develop and utilise more effectively current practice placement settings.
* To formally evaluate the impact of these models at two and three-years post implementation.
* To ensure the voice and lived experience of both individuals with a learning disability *and* undergraduate RNLD students underpin to the project.

The RCN Foundation is seeking applications from individuals or organisations to work with us over a 12-month period. Funding available is up to a maximum value of £30,000. The study should aim to start in 2024 and finish in 2025. The funding available could cover direct research and development-related salaries and dissemination costs. There should be at least one open access paper published setting out the findings and recommendations of the project. The funding will not cover indirect costs such as organisational overheads, capital costs or purchase of non-specialist equipment.

Applicants will attend regular virtual meetings with Foundation staff. The successful individual/organisation will be required to submit an interim report mid-way through the project, and a final report. A payment schedule will map to the reporting deadlines.

Examples of RCN Foundation funded research studies can be found [here](https://rcnfoundation.rcn.org.uk/Research-projects/Children-and-young-people-mental-health).

**Application**

To apply for this funding call, please submit a proposal to: [grants@rcnfoundation.org.uk](mailto:grants@rcnfoundation.org.uk)

The proposal should address the following headings:

**Section A: Application details**

Please include the details of the project lead and the organisation from which you are applying. Please give a brief description of the organisation and list the team. In addition, please list any partner organisations involved in the project.

The application should demonstrate:

* How co-production involving both individuals with lived experience of a learning disability and RNLD students across Scotland will be achieved.
* Considerable experience of carrying out projects to enhance evidence-based teaching and learning strategies for learning disability nurse education.
* Experience of producing influential reports at a policy or programme design level.
* Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
* Experience of providing written reports and presenting findings to both nursing professionals and lay people.
* Understanding the equity, diversity and inclusion principles relating to individuals with lived experience of a learning disability in Scotland.

**Section B: Proposal Format**

Project design and methods

This section will introduce the aim and objective(s) of the project. It should identify the project design and methods you plan to use to develop a practice placement model which allows for equitable access to practice learning experiences for undergraduate learning disability nursing students, including developing new and non-traditional placement settings that reflect emerging roles of learning disability nursing.

Ethical approval

Please indicate what type(s) of ethical approval are required for the project. It would be helpful to understand the timelines for any ethical approval processes.

Safeguarding

Please include any safeguarding policy from your organisation and any safeguards which will be in place to support the project team and participants.

Timescales and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Please present the timescales of the project in a Gantt chart. This should include the key phases, deadlines and milestones for the project, as well as any other relevant information.

Please use the following table format to outline the proposed KPIs and timelines.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**  *e.g. x number of participants recruited; x number of research sites recruited; ethics approval secured* | **Date**  *Please provide the date by which each KPI is expected to be achieved* |
|  |  |
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|  |  |

Impact

Outputs, outcomes and impact assessment and evaluation

Please describe what the expected outputs and outcomes of the study will be and how these meet the RCN Foundation’s priorities. Please explain how the short, medium, and long-term impact of the project will be measured and how the outcomes of the project will be sustained in the future.

Please also explain how the project will be evaluated.

Dissemination

Please outline a dissemination plan, identifying the key activities, and the audiences at whom the outcomes and outputs will be targeted. Please include details of the communication strategies which will be required to support the dissemination.

Equity, diversity and inclusion

Consideration needs to be given to the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion within the proposal. Please provide information on how this project will address and incorporate these principles within the project design.

Environmental Sustainability

Does your organisation have an environmental sustainability policy and how does this project adhere to this?

**Section C: Project Costs and Resources**

The maximum budget for this call is £30,000. Please provide a detailed breakdown of costs in the format used for the table below:

**Budget:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost £** | **Explanatory note** | **Funded by?**  *i.e. RCN Foundation/other organisation/applicant organisation* |
|  |  |  |  |
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**Next Steps**

Applications open on **19th July**  and close at **5pm on 30 August 2024**

Interviews will be held on **3rd October**

Proposals received after the closing date will not be considered.

Completed proposals should be submitted by email to: [grants@rcnfoundation.org.uk](mailto:grants@rcnfoundation.org.uk)

Should you have any questions about this funding call please contact Dr Sarah McGloin, Head of Grants and Impact at the RCN Foundation: [sarah.mcgloin@rcn.org.uk](mailto:sarah.mcgloin@rcn.org.uk)

Thank you for your interest.

**Application checklist**

Please ensure that you have included the following in your application:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Does the research require:   * NHS Research Ethics Service approval for Scotland * University ethical approval | Yes/No |
| A comprehensive proposal including:   * Project design and methods * Evaluation method * Comprehensive dissemination plan * Impact measurement * Longer term sustainability of the project * Greener and sustainable practices | Yes/No |
| A clear and comprehensive indicative budget | Yes/No |
| CVs for the project team | Yes/No |
| A timeline presented in a Gantt chart | Yes/No |
| KPIs presented in a table | Yes/No |
| Risk register | Yes/ No |