

Managed Education Partnerships

Supporting Health System Strengthening through Human Resources for Health

The WHO Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health states that progress towards universal health coverage must be underpinned by “equitable access to health workers within strengthened health systems”¹.

The United Kingdom National Health Service (NHS) has developed an offer called Managed Education Partnerships (MEPs) to create institutional partnerships focused on human resources for health and health system strengthening. Combined with the NHS’s strong Health Education and Training track record, supporting health and care services to transform and develop their workforce to meet the needs of patients today and in the future, MEPs will support action on “healthy lives and well-being, effective universal health coverage, resilience and strengthened health systems at all levels”².

MEP Overview

MEPs facilitate the development of bilateral institutional health partnerships that seek to improve health service delivery and health outcomes. MEPs are managed by the Global Health Partnerships team and are created through a process of co-development, with local needs at the heart of the partnership. MEPs are built on the reputation of the NHS in England and underpinned by global and UK government commitments to strengthen health systems, and advance health protection, health security and health equity.



¹ <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/250368/9789241511131-eng.pdf> page 8.

² Ibid.

An MEP will seek to create value for all parties involved by:

- Developing peer-to-peer relationships between individual and teams of health care professionals and system managers.
- Developing shared knowledge and evidence-based practice
- Enhancing strategic and operational relationships with global partners
- Creating sustainable improvements in health service delivery and health outcomes with longer term institutional links and learning

Each MEP will be an integrated, co-designed partnership consisting of the following elements:

- Formal Oversight Board
- Knowledge exchanges and fellowships between institutions (virtual and in person)
- Ongoing Collaboration **See Figure 1** for more detail

Managed Education Partnerships benefit both the partner country and the NHS in England, as highlighted in the table below.

Benefits of MEPs	Partner Country	NHS
Institutional		
Build capability & capacity of global health workforce	✓	✓
Supports UK based learning without migration	✓	
Create strong system-to-system links focused on agreed priorities	✓	✓
Share learning and develop two-way flows of information	✓	✓
Cultural competence and diaspora engagement		✓
Truly inclusive and open to staff from multiple clinical and non-clinical backgrounds		✓
Improved recruitment and retention through reduced staff attrition and improved job satisfaction	✓	✓
Individual		
Global learning opportunities, develop skills including resilience, adaptability and innovation	✓	✓
Develop leadership, research and/or quality improvement skills.	✓	✓
An integrated formal learning opportunity with UK Higher Education Institute delivered online with the opportunity for study visits and/or clinical attachments to the UK	✓	
Potential for publication in peer reviewed journals	✓	✓

Managed Education Partnership model

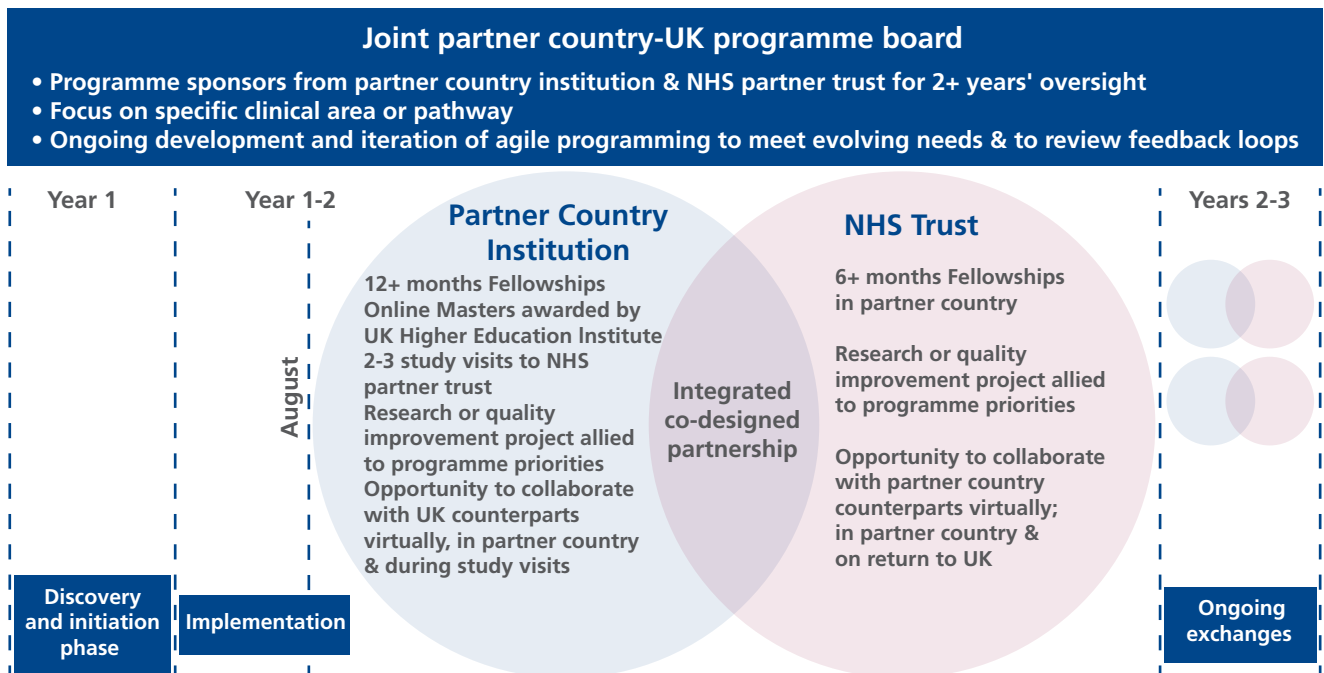


Figure 1

Developing an MEP

If the MEP model sounds like something you would be interested in exploring further with us, please contact us for an initial discussion.

We've set out here the key stages in developing an MEP would look like.

Funding and timescales

MEPs will have a shared funding model with the Global Health Partnerships team, the NHS delivery trust and FCDO or the partner country contributing towards the costs.

The timescales for establishing an MEP will vary but are likely to be at least 6 -12 months from initiation and it may be as long as 12 -24 months before the first exchanges take place.

To develop the MEP, we will follow the process below.

Discover

- Initial high-level conversations and sharing of potential objectives between the Global Health Partnerships team and key stakeholders, e.g. from relevant Ministry of Health.
- Desk-based review of partner country's key features including demographics, government and healthcare system and identification of notable challenges and successes.
- Consideration of any restrictions or potential limitations on either side including immigration considerations, regulatory requirements and suitability of proposed area of focus

Define and Develop

- Synthesis and agreement on confirmed focus of Managed Education Partnerships.
- In-country technical visit to agree, contextualise and finalise scope of Managed Education Partnership with focused local key stakeholders.

Deliver

- Specification of Requirements tendered to our Global Health Partners Framework and contract awarded to successful bidder.

In an epoch of climate change, where there are so many new health challenges, one of the best ways to ensure appropriate response on behalf of your people is to build efficacious partnerships with institutions like the NHS.

**Hon. Ralph Gonzales,
Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines**



SVG Nurses at Leeds Teaching Hospitals

To find out more, contact
Technical Collaboration and
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Managed Education
Partnerships are one of a
range of products and services
to support Health System
Strengthening offered by the
NHS Technical Collaboration and
Consultancy team. If you would
like a conversation about our
broader offer, please contact us
for further details