

# Application form

# Mental Health Social Care Incubator

# Stepping into Research (STiR) Programme

The aim of the Stepping into Research Programme is to help practitioners, lived experience researchers, and early career researchers in Mental Health Social Care (MHSC) to develop their research ideas into competitive grant applications.

The programme, delivered by the NIHR-supported MHSC incubator, is jointly funded by the NIHR Three Schools Mental Health Programme and the MHSCI Seed Fund. The scheme will run for six months, and will focus on turning research ideas into research reality by having experienced researchers ‘be alongside’ people as they develop their ideas and proposals. We aim to support and develop a new generation of MHSC researchers.

Successful applicants will receive continuous support as part of the programme, and will also attend/ have access to:

* Focused virtual workshops on grant writing, tailored for specific NIHR funding streams.
* 1-to-1 coaching and open-door sessions for participants with Incubator leads and NIHR Research Support Service Social Care Specialist Centre advisors.
* Virtual workshops on pathways to impact and/or co-production and partnership working.
* An in-person fully funded grant writing retreat, beginning on the evening of 4th November into the 5th November 2025.

Applicants are expected to attend to make full use of this support. We are unable to cover the salary costs of people joining the programme from employed posts related to MHSC/research. We have some places reserved for people with lived experience of mental health problems and/or of being a carer and these have additional funding to pay for people’s participation.

This year we are also accepting team applications for teams of up to TWO people. If submitting a team application, please provide details for BOTH team members

**The deadline for submission of this form is 12 noon, Friday 27th June 2025.**

**When completed please send this form to the Mental Health Social Care Incubator at:** [**mhsc.incubator@manchester.ac.uk**](mailto:mhsc.incubator@manchester.ac.uk)

Please contact the Mental Health Social Care Incubator [mhsc.incubator@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:mhsc.incubator@manchester.ac.uk) if you need any assistance completing the form.



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| A. ABOUT YOU / YOUR TEAM | |
| A1. Details | |
| Individual or Team Application: | **Individual / Team (delete as applicable)** |
| Name(s): |  |
| Employing organisation(s): |  |
| Department(s)  (if applicable): |  |
| Job title/role(s): |  |
| Telephone number(s): |  |
| Email(s): |  |
| A2. Background | |
| Please provide a brief description of your background(s) as related to this programme |  |
| B. RESEARCH AREA / IDEA | |
| This is your opportunity to tell us about the research idea you have. Don’t worry if at this stage it is still quite vague – developing the idea into research is what we are here to help you achieve! | |
| B1. Summary of research area/idea (max 500 words) | |
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| B2. Why is this area/idea important in MHSC? (max 500 words) | |
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| **B3. (Optional) Have you identified a potential funding stream (e.g., NIHR Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Pre-doctoral Local Authority Fellowship etc.)? If so, which?** | |
| If you aren’t sure about this at the time of application, this is absolutely fine. Your application will not be penalised if you do not answer this question. | |
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| C.RESEARCH AND YOU | |
| This section helps us gain a little bit more of an idea of why you are applying to Stepping into Research and where you see your journey in research leading to. | |
| **C1. What is your motivation for applying to the Stepping into Research Programme? Are there any particular research skills you hope to develop? (max 300 words)** | |

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| C2. After the Stepping into Research Programme, how do you see yourself/selvesrelating to MHSC research? (max 300 words) |
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| D. SIGNATURES |
| **D1. Applicant** |
| Please sign this form to confirm that you understand in-person and virtual attendance at events is a requirement for some aspects of the Stepping into Research Programme. Due to the operational costs involved, the grant writing retreat to be held on the evening of the 4th and 5th November is mandatory. Accommodation, food, and reasonable travel costs to and from the venue will be covered by the Programme.  Signed……………………………………………… Date………………… |
| **D2. Employing Organisation** |
| IF YOU ARE IN EMPLOYMENT RELATED TO MHSC, PLEASE ASK YOUR MANAGER TO COMPLETE THIS SHORT SECTION:  Please add a brief paragraph of support for your colleague’s participation in this programme:  ….  *Please sign this form to confirm that you support the person in this application to the Stepping into Research Programme; you understand in-person and virtual attendance at events is a requirement for some aspects of and are willing to support the applicant to attend these. Due to the operational costs involved, the grant writing retreat to be held on 4th and 5th November is mandatory. Accommodation, food, and reasonable travel costs to and from the venue will be covered by the Programme. This confirms you are happy for your employee to meet these commitments.*  Signed……………………………………………… Date………………… |
| **D3. Applicant Two (if applicable)** |
| Please sign this form to confirm that you understand in-person and virtual attendance at events is a requirement for some aspects of the Stepping into Research Programme. Due to the operational costs involved, the grant writing retreat to be held on the evening of the 4th and 5th November is mandatory. Accommodation, food, and reasonable travel costs to and from the venue will be covered by the Programme.  Signed……………………………………………… Date………………… |
| **D4. Employing Organisation Two (if applicable)** |
| IF TEAM MEMBERS ARE EMPLOYED BY DIFFERENT ORGANISATIONS, PLEASE USE THIS SECOND SPACE FOR TEAM MEMBER TWO’S MANAGER TO COMPLETE THIS SHORT SECTION. IF D2 IS COMPLETED FOR BOTH APPLICANTS OR YOUR APPLICATION IS AN INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION, THIS SECTION (D4) MAY BE LEFT BLANK.  Please add a brief paragraph of support for your colleague’s participation in this programme:  *Please sign this form to confirm that you support the person in this application to the Stepping into Research Programme; you understand in-person and virtual attendance at events is a requirement for some aspects of and are willing to support the applicant to attend these. Due to the operational costs involved, the grant writing retreat to be held on 4th and 5th November is mandatory. Accommodation, food, and reasonable travel costs to and from the venue will be covered by the Programme. This confirms you are happy for your employee to meet these commitments.*  Signed……………………………………………… Date………………… |

The information in your application form will be shared with the MHSC Incubator team who will be delivering the Stepping into Research Programme. If your application is successful, the following information will be shared with the other participants on the writing retreat.

* Your name
* Your email address
* Your organisation

No other information about you, your application, or research idea will be shared beyond the MHSC Incubator team who review your application.

Personal data that you share with the MHSC Incubator is collected, stored, accessed, and used in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the University of Manchester data protection policy, found here: <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/privacy-information/data-protection/>

If you have any questions or concerns about your personal data, please email us at [**mhsc.incubator@manchester.ac.uk**](mailto:mhsc.incubator@manchester.ac.uk)

