# Guidance Document Healthcare Science

STP, HSST and ETP Expressions of Interest (EOI) 2024

## Request for Funding

The NHS England Healthcare Science portal is now open to receive your organisation’s funding request for STP, HSST and ETP training posts. Your funding request is your organisation’s commitment to hosting and supporting a trainee in their respective healthcare science discipline through to completion of their training programme. Your request should reflect what your organisation is effectively able to deliver, and NHS England encourages collaboration with your regional leads and ICBs to assist you in submitting a request which also meets your future workforce needs.

All funding requests are reviewed by NHS England’s regional panels and submission of a request does not guarantee funding.

In previous years this portal has collected your organisation’s demand for healthcare science training posts commencing in the following year. This process has been reviewed and this year NHS England is gathering your demand for healthcare science training posts commencing in September 2024, along with years 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028. Details of how this will be collected follows.

### Why has this changed?

NHS England's Multi-Professional Education and Training Investment Plan (METIP) sets out the education and training activity to be funded in 2024/25 and planned activity for the following four years up to and including trainees commencing training posts in 2028.  The METIP directly supports the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan which sets out a clear policy of domestic education expansion and your workforce demand will be factored into the METIP. By receiving this information, it will achieve a stronger link between workforce demand and supply from education and will inform the investment plan for education to support the upskilling and development of NHS staff.

#### EOI Process

The gathering of information on the portal this year will be in two stages:

Stage 1: Gathering of summary information for 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028.

The portal you are about to complete requests summary information only. This is designed to make this first stage as least onerous as possible for organisations to complete and sufficient to enable NHS England regional panels to review requests and decide if a recommendation to support posts commencing in 2024 should be made.

At this point, funding is not confirmed. Information relating to 2025 and beyond will be used to forward plan the future NHS healthcare science field by gathering information regarding the workforce need, consequently creating a financial forecast that is to be requested. Your regional leads will work with you in relation to this demand (please see section covering funding requests for 2025 and beyond, below).

The stage 1 portal closes this year on 8th September at 17.00. Regional panels will then sit to consider requests received. NHS England regional leads will inform organisations of the Panel reviews outcome by 13th October 2023. All recommendations to support training posts are subject to funding being confirmed to NHS England which occurs between quarter four of 2023/24 and quarter one of 2024/25 financial years. If there are any changes to your demands, either to increase, decrease or withdraw requested posts, you will need to contact your local regional and national commissioning colleagues.

In the second stage, NHS England will gather detailed information of the training posts you have identified in Stage 1 for 2024; the information required will be very similar to previous years, for example, details of training rotations, day-to-day contacts and workforce planning.

The stage 2 portal will close on 8th December 2023 after which time NHS England internal processes of reconciling and confirming EOI requests and advertising of Direct Entry posts will commence, as is currently the case, culminating in trainees commencing their training posts in September 2024. Following the confirmation of intent to fund after completion of Stage 2, the recruitment for training posts will commence, therefore it is imperative that contact is made with NSHCS.MSCRecruitment@hee.nhs.uk on any organisation updates.

If a response to stage 2 is not received by 8th December, there is a risk that the post will not be supported due to the availability of time to recruit.

### What happens to my funding requests for 2025 and beyond?

This process is an annual cycle.  Your regional lead will work with your organisation to refine your demand for training places commencing in 2025 and will take into account any changes.  Stages 1 and 2 will be repeated next year for funding requests for years 2025 to 2029.

We hope you will find the annual cycle illustrated below helpful.

If you have any questions please contact your regional NHS England lead whose name is in the attached e-mail.

**Annual Cycle (illustration shows cycle commencing in 2023)**