NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme
Applicant Guidance
Year 5 Intake

Contents

Introduction and Background

The NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme is part of the Accelerated Access Collaborative (AAC) which brings together industry, government, regulators, patients and the NHS to remove barriers and accelerate the introduction of new ground-breaking treatments and diagnostics which have the potential to transform care.

Established in 2016, the programme aims to support healthcare staff to develop the commercial skills, knowledge and experience needed to successfully develop and spread innovation, for the benefit for patients, the public, and the wider NHS. The programme offers a range of support including direct education, mentoring, networking, and access to exclusive opportunities, expertise and resources.

Since its launch, the programme has grown in scale and impact. Over the first four years, the programme has recruited over 500 clinical entrepreneurs, making it the world's first and largest national-level workforce development programme for clinical entrepreneurs.

This application is for Year 5 of the programme. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, recruitment was suspended for a period of time. Consequently, successful candidates will not be starting the programme in September 2020 as is usually the case. It is expected that the Year 5 cohort will begin the programme in early 2021 (exact date to be confirmed). The cohort will still complete at least a full year on the programme but there will likely be changes to timelines and delivery methods due to the evolving Government guidance surrounding COVID-19. Any changes will be communicated as early as possible.

For more information about the programme, please see our webpages: https://www.england.nhs.uk/aac/what-we-do/how-can-the-aac-help-me/clinical-entrepreneur-training-programme/

Frequently Asked Questions

Am I eligible to apply?
All healthcare/NHS staff are welcome to apply. This includes those in both clinical and non-clinical roles.

I have an innovation/idea which I am developing with a co-founder, can we both apply?
This programme is a workforce development programme therefore it is focused on developing you as an individual entrepreneur/innovator. Your co-founder can apply separately, and your applications will be assessed independently from one another.

Can I apply with an innovation/idea/concept in a very early stage of development?
Yes, we welcome applications from those with an innovative idea, provided this has been given careful consideration. Likewise, we welcome applications from those with a more mature innovation already in market, and all phases in between.

Will I be able to keep my intellectual property?
Currently, this programme does not seek to claim any intellectual property.

How do I apply?
To be able to submit an application, you will need to register to the Research Management System application portal. Appendix 1 details instructions on how to use the portal. Please note that when you register on the portal, a member of the team will need to validate your account before you are able to start your application. Accounts will be validated Monday to Friday, 09:00-17:00. Only organisational email addresses will be validated so please do not register using personal email addresses. Once logged into your account, you can then begin your application from the portal home page. Please only submit your application via the portal. Applications submitted by post, email, or any other method will not be accepted.

How will applications be chosen?
Applications will initially be assessed by at least two reviewers who will score your application independently and provide a recommendation on whether your application should be accepted onto the programme. An average score will be calculated. Applicants will get accepted onto the programme if they meet the agreed scoring threshold and assessors reach a consensus to offer you a place. You may be invited to join a brief video call with two assessors to answer any clarifying questions. All applications will be reviewed by a validation committee (and a sample moderated by equality, diversity and inclusion representatives) to ensure that decisions to not offer (and to offer) a place onto the programme this year are fair and justified.

Who will assess my application?
Your application will be assessed by at least two reviewers from a pool of assessors that include existing clinical entrepreneur fellows and alumni, programme mentors, and other stakeholders representing clinical, commercial and NHS perspectives. All assessors, moderators and validators will be asked to declare any known 'conflicts of interest' to NHSEI's programme team. As your application will be assessed by a range of people from different backgrounds and specialities, it needs to be accessible. Please keep the use of acronyms to a minimum. If you do choose to use an acronym, you should define it when first used.

Will the content of my application remain confidential?
All information disclosed via the application process will be kept strictly confidential. Assessors, moderators and validators will not share any of the information they are privy to through the application process and will keep all information safe and secure. However, you are still advised to not disclose any information that is potentially patentable. Rather, we recommend you only provide the more general information about your idea/innovation.

What happens if I do not complete my application?

Please ensure you complete all sections of the application fully. Incomplete applications will not be assessed. The only exception is if you have not included your references. This information can be collected at a later date but please note that assessors are advised to refer to your CV and references when scoring your application.

Can I save my application and come back to it later?

Yes, you do not have to complete your application all in one sitting – you may save your progress using the 'Save and Close' button and complete/amend your application at a later date (before the submission deadline). We recommend that you save your work regularly to minimise the risk of losing work due to any local computer or internet problems.

Can I submit more than one application?

No, please only submit one application and ensure all information provided is complete and accurate. Throughout your application, you are advised to provide responses that are comprehensive, highly relevant and clearly articulated with compelling evidence and examples presented, where necessary.

What happens if my application is successful?

If your application is successful, you will be notified and sent an NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Agreement which must be signed and returned in order to accept your place onto the programme. This document will set out the terms of your place on the programme.

When will I find out if my application is successful?

We aim to notify all candidates about the outcome of their application by January 2021.

Will I receive funding, if successful?

This programme does not directly offer any funding or grants. The programme focuses on mentoring, education, and networking. However, the programme can help signpost/connect you with organisations that may be able to assist with funding.

What is the time commitment, if successful?

The time commitment varies. The more engaged you are with the programme the greater the benefit. The minimum commitment is attendance at half of the scheduled group educational events (there are usually seven per year, but this may vary due to COVID-19); four interactions with your assigned mentor; the completion of learning documents such as an action plan, personal development plan and lean canvas; and the provision of periodic progress updates.

If I am unsuccessful, will I receive feedback?

Due to the number of applications we received, we will be unable to provide detailed feedback on individual applications but will endeavour to provide as much information as possible on request.

Q&A Webinars

We will be hosting a number of webinars to explain more about the programme and this year's application process, and to answer any further questions you may have. Please keep monitoring our webpages to find out details for when these sessions will be held.

If you have any other queries regarding your application, these can be directed to england.cep@nhs.net

Application Questions

Questions marked with a * are included to help the team monitor progress throughout your time on the programme. You will not be disadvantaged if you answer 'no' to these questions.

Part 1: Professional Details

The programme aims to support the healthcare workforce to develop and scale their most innovative ideas for the benefit of patients, staff and the wider NHS. Although the programme was initially created to support NHS staff in clinical roles, we have now expanded to accept applications from all healthcare staff, both clinical and non-clinical.

This section of the application aims to collect information about your professional group. This is to allow your application to be assessed by teams with expertise in your field/area.

1. **What NHS/healthcare professional group do you belong to? (Please select one)**
   - Doctor
   - Healthcare Scientist
   - Dentist/ Dental Nurse
   - Allied Health Professional
   - Nurse/ Midwife
   - Pharmacist
   - Non-clinical, please specify (max. 10 words):
   - Other, please specify (max. 10 words):

2. **Professional registration number**
   [i] (For example: GMC, GDC, NMC, HCPC, OC registered. If you are not a clinical member of staff, please insert N/A in this field)

3. **Main/NHS employer**
   [i] (Please select your organisation from the list below. If your organisation is not included in the list, you can contact the team via the 'Contact Us' feature on the system. Please send us the full name of your organisation so that we can add it to the drop-down list.)

4. **Current job title (max. 10 words)**

5. Training status (Please select one)
- Not in training
- Applying for training
  - *Please specify which training programme you are applying to:*
    - Scientist Training Programme
    - Higher Specialist Training
    - Post Certification of Completion of Training
    - Other, please specify (max. 10 words):
- In training
  - i. *Please provide your training number:*
  - ii. *Please confirm that your Programme Training Director is supportive of this application. (If you are successful, we will require evidence of their support).*
    - Yes/ No
  - iii. *Please specify which training programme you belong to:*
    - Scientist Training Programme
    - Higher Specialist Training
    - Post Certification of Completion of Training
    - Other, please specify (max. 10 words):
  - iv. *Please list which clinical areas you are interested in (max. 50 words):*

6. What is your current Local Education Training Board?
- Kent, Surrey and Sussex
- North Central and East London
- North West London
- South London
- East Midlands
- West Midlands
- East of England
- North East
- North West
- Yorkshire and the Humber
- Thames Valley
- Wessex
- South West
- Not applicable

7. In which region is your regular work base?
[i] We recognise that COVID-19 may have had an effect on where you are currently working. If this is the case, please indicate where your main work location would be if not for the pandemic.

- North East
- North West
- Yorkshire and the Humber
- West Midlands
- East Midlands
- South West
- South East
- East of England
- Greater London
- Other, please specify (max. 10 words):

Part 2: About You and Your Innovation

In line with the AAC's ambition to help make the NHS one of the most pro-innovation health systems in the world, programmes such as the NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme support a wide range of innovations, including medicines, diagnostics, devices, digital products, pathway changes, and new workforce models to name a few. The NHS has one of the largest workforces in the world, full of people who are closest to the real challenges faced by the healthcare service. The NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme was established to allow individuals the opportunity to create solutions to these challenges, without having to leave the NHS.

In this part of the application, we invite you to tell us more about your innovation/ idea/ project. This part of the application is split into two sections:

1. The first section is intended to aid assessors understand your innovation/ idea/ project and what stage it is at in its development.
2. The second section is focussed on you and your entrepreneurial aptitude and experience to date.

Section 1: Innovation Details

1. **What is the company/product name for your innovation/idea/project? (max. 10 words)**

2. **How would you describe your innovation in one sentence? (max. 50 words)**

3. **What stage of development is your innovation/idea at? (Please select all that apply)**
   - Early concept (idea) fully formalised
   - Market research/costumer validation completed
   - Minimum viable product/prototype available/close to completion
   - Formal testing/trialling completed/in progress
   - Product/service in market/use
   - Other, please specify (max. 10 words):

4. **What type of innovation are you developing? (Please select all that apply)**
   - Medical device
   - Medicine/pharmaceutical
   - Diagnostic tool
   - Workforce model
   - Service delivery model
   - Educational tool
   - Data analysis technology (including artificial intelligence/machine learning)
   - Telehealth or telecare
   - Augmented reality, virtual reality, mixed realities
   - Mobile application
   - Software package
   - Other, please specify (max. 10 words):

5. **Who is the target audience of your innovation? (max. 50 words)**
   [i](For example, commissioners, primary care workers, people with cardiovascular disease, people at risk of diabetes, stroke rehabilitation nurses)

6. **What impact does your innovation aim to have? (Please select all that apply)**
   - **Improved clinical outcomes**
     [i] (For example: If your innovation aims to improve health outcomes such as accuracy of diagnosis, detection rates, effectiveness/availability of treatment, or ability to manage a condition)
   - **Improved service provisions**
     [i] (For example: If your innovation aims to improve a care pathway, reduce the number of procedures undertaken by a service or reduce waiting times)
   - **Increased financial savings**
     [i] (For example: If your innovation aims to reduce service delivery costs or staffing costs)
   - **Increased time savings**
     [i] (For example: If your innovation aims to reduce the number of missed appointments)
   - **Improved public/patient wellbeing**
     [i] (For example: If your innovation aims to improve quality of life, safety, or independence for patients/service users)
   - **Improved NHS staff performance**
     [i] (For example: If your innovation aims to provide training, upskilling or education for staff)
   - **Improved environmental sustainability**
     [i] (For example: If your innovation aims to reduce carbon emissions, increase recycling or raise awareness about environmental footprints)
   - ***Reduced health inequalities/increased equality, diversity, and inclusion***
     [i] (For example: If your innovation aims to reduce discriminatory bias, reduce health inequalities, increase accessibility or provide education/raise awareness about certain populations and barriers to equality, diversity and inclusion)

7. **Are you working with an NHS partner(s) on your innovation? ***
   [i] (For example, a primary care provider, hospital, ambulance service)
   - Yes, please provide details (max. 50 words):
   - No

8. **Have you secured any customers/users for your innovation? ***
   - Yes, please provide details (max. 50 words):
   - No

9. **Do you have a mentor supporting you with your innovation? ***
   - Yes, please provide details, including their name and specialism (max. 50 words):
   - No

10. **What are you looking for in applying to become a clinical entrepreneur? (Please select all that apply)**
    - Clinical champions
    - Partners for trials
    - Market penetration
    - Funding
    - Research and development support
    - Raised awareness of your innovation
    - Procurement support
    - Technical support
    - Business planning support
    - Mentoring and coaching
    - Other, please specify (max. 10 words):

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This section is for you to show us your entrepreneurial potential. The following questions will be assessed according to scoring criteria which evaluates your innovation's clinical impact and viability, and your personal motivation and capability. You are advised to evidence your answers as much as possible (this can be done by providing examples). In addition to uploading an introductory one-minute video elevator pitch, you may also supplement one additional question (Q11, Q12, Q13, Q14 or Q15) with another one-minute video.

11. **Please record a one-minute video elevator pitch introducing yourself, your innovation/project/idea and your entrepreneurial aspirations. (max. 1 minute)**
    [i] This question aims to examine why you have decided to pursue your innovation and your long-term vision.

    Please upload your 1-minute video elevator pitch to YouTube and provide the link in the field below. For further details about uploading your video to YouTube, please refer to Appendix 2.

12. **What NHS need does your innovation meet and how does it positively impact patients? (max. 200 words)**
    [i] This question aims to examine:
    - *The problem your innovation aims to address and if it meets a clear unmet need in the NHS.*
    - *Whether there is evidence to support the benefit of your innovation.*
    - *The impact of your innovation on patients/service users and the NHS (e.g. better clinical outcomes, cost efficiencies so increased opportunity for service transformation, better staff wellbeing so improved performance).*
    - *Whether your proposal aligns with a high priority area for the NHS (i.e. supports the NHS Long Term Plan) or a high-need population (e.g. those experiencing significant health inequalities).*

13. **What research have you undertaken to explore how your innovation impacts different populations? (max. 200 words)**
    [i] This question aims to examine whether equality, diversity and inclusion have been considered with regards to patients/service users and/or staff. This includes:
    - *Whether the accessibility of your innovation, and its impact on health inequalities have been considered.*
    - *Whether a diverse range of patients/service users and/or staff have been involved in the development of your innovation and how you will engage with them in the future.*

14. **What research have you undertaken into the market and competition for your innovation? (max. 200 words)**
    [i] This question aims to examine:
    - *Your understanding of the potential market for your innovation and your approach to gaining uptake and buy-in from the NHS.*
    - *Your proposed business model (e.g. business-to-government (B2G), business-to-business (B2B), business-to-consumer (B2C)) and whether this is likely to be sustainable.*
    - *Whether your innovation is viable (including market size and share, the customer base and demand, scalability, risk, barriers, and cost)*
    - *The stage of development your innovation is at.*
    - *Whether your innovation is competitive/novel in ways that would provide significant added benefit to patients/service users and the NHS.*

15. **Where do you realistically see yourself and/or your innovation in five years and how do you intend to get there? (max. 200 words)**

[i] This question aims to examine the sustainability of your innovation and whether you have a long-term vision/action plan that considers the wider clinical and innovation landscape. You may wish to consider whether you envision your innovation becoming a social enterprise, commercial venture or intrapreneurial undertaking, and what the innovation's long-term environmental sustainability may look like.

16. **What is your motivation for joining the programme? (max. 200 words)**

[i] This question aims to examine:
- *Your motivations for pursing your entrepreneurial aspirations and your commitment to improving the NHS.*
- *Your personal values, skills, and behaviours (Note: successful clinical entrepreneurs tend to be patient-focussed, passionate, ambitious, insightful, visionary, creative, dedicated, culturally aware, and self-starter individuals)*
- *Your career ambitions/goals and your resilience and drive to succeed.*
- *What you will bring to the programme.*
- *Your development needs and how the programme can assist with these.*
- *The potential impact you can have on the culture of NHS organisations.*

17. **Briefly outline any previous experience of developing and/or implementing innovations or the particular insight you have in the specialist area you are focusing on. (max. 200 words)**

[i] This question aims to examine what skills and experiences you already have that will help make your solution a success. This can be a sustained interest in developing/implementing innovation or insight/experience in the specialist area you are seeking to address.

18. **Please attach any links that support the content of your application. (max. 3 links)**

[i] This question provides you with the opportunity to attach any supplementary evidence such as links to video demonstrations, market research or prior achievements. If not applicable, please answer N/A.

19. **Please upload your CV. (max. 2 pages in pdf format)**

20. **Please upload two professional references (max. 1 page in pdf format and signed per referee)**

[i] Your referees must have worked with you in a professional capacity within the last two years. If you are unable to provide two references at this point in time, please select the option to submit reference at a later stage. However, please note that assessors are advised to refer to your CV and references when scoring your application.

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Part 3: Personal Details

1. **Title**
   ● Mr
   ● Mrs
   ● Miss
   ● Ms
   ● Mx
   ● Dr
   ● Prof
   ● Other, please specify (max. 10 words):

2. **First name**

3. **Last name**

4. **Home address**

5. **Telephone number**

6. **Email address**

7. **Where did you hear about the NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme? (Please select all that apply)**
   ● Word of mouth/ colleague/ friend, please specify (max. 10 words):
   ● Member of the programme community (e.g. a clinical entrepreneur fellow, mentor or alumnus, Prof Tony Young or a member of the programme team), please specify (max. 10 words):
   ● Society/ staff network, please specify (max. 10 words):
   ● University, please specify (max. 10 words):
   ● NHS website, please specify (max. 10 words):
   ● Internet (e.g. YouTube, websites, blogs), please specify (max. 10 words):
   ● TV/ news/ media, please specify (max. 10 words):
   ● Newsletter/ bulletin/ email, please specify (max. 10 words):
   ● Social media (e.g. LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook), please specify (max. 10 words):
   ● Conference/ hackathon/ show/ event, please specify (max. 10 words):
   ● Other, please specify (max. 10 words):

Submit Application

This marks the end of the application. To submit your application, please 'Save and Close' the application and then click 'Submit'. You will receive an automated email confirming that we have received your application.

Thank you

Thank you for applying to the NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme. We can confirm that your application has been successfully submitted. Please keep monitoring your email for further correspondence. Any further questions can be directed to england.cep@nhs.net
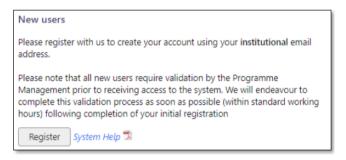
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Appendix 1 – Using the Research Management System Portal

Applications must be made through the Research Management System (RMS) online application portal. A template application form may be downloaded from the website, however, please note that this is for demonstration purposes only and may not be used to submit an application.
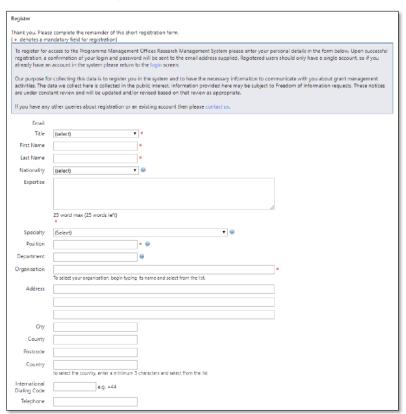
User Registration

Only registered users of the RMS application portal can apply. Applicants new to using the application portal should register as a new user. Once logged into your account, use the application portal homepage as the starting point to create your application, and to update any details such as contact/ personal and professional details.

1. To register as a new user, select 'Register' on the right-hand side of the homepage.

2. Enter your organisational (NOT personal or group) email address, and again to confirm. Your email address will become your login username. Select 'Next' to continue.

3. Enter your contact details in all fields and select 'Next'. Note: denotes a mandatory field which must be completed.
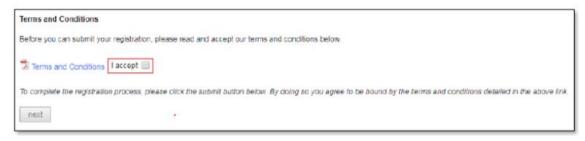
4. Ensure the consent question entitled *"Communication Preferences"* at the bottom of the page is answered.

5. Select the *"Terms and Conditions"* and, once read, tick the confirmation box.

6. Click 'Submit'.

An email containing a link to create your password (which you will use to gain access to the system) will be sent to the previously entered email address once your registration details have been approved by a grant administrator. Registrations will only be approved Monday-Friday, 09:00–17:00. **Please allow two working days for the registration to be completed.**

Please add pmo@ccggranttracker.com to your trusted senders as these emails tend to go to your spam or junk folders.
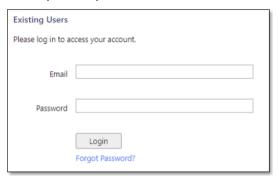
In order to register successfully, please comply with the following:

- ***Use an institutional email address:*** *Since anyone can create a Gmail/Hotmail account and claim to be someone (they may or may not be), we insist that all applicants must use an institutional email address to get approved by the system so that we can double check that you are who you say you are and are affiliated with an organisation.*
- ***Do not use a generic / group email address****: The RMS flags any potential conflict of interests. If numerous people are using one email, conflicts cannot be picked up and we will not know who is using the system.*
- ***Do not create multiple accounts:*** *Multiple accounts affects the system's ability to check potential conflicts of interest.*

Accessing the RMS

1. Enter your email address and password and click 'Login'. If you are accessing the system for the first time, the *"Basic Information"* page will display. Once the relevant fields have been completed, press the 'Save' button.

2. The account homepage will now display indicating access to the system.

Please note, persistent use (>3 attempts) of an incorrect password will lock your account; this is to protect you from attempts to access your data by a third party. If this happens you can request a new password via the forgotten password function.

Forgotten Passwords

1. From the RMS homepage, click the *"Forgotten Password"* hyperlink.

2. Enter the email address with which you registered and click 'Submit'.

3. An email containing instructions for resetting your password will be sent to the registered email address.

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Creating and Completing an Online Application

1. **Create a new application** by selecting *"My Applications"* from the left-hand menu and clicking the 'New Application' button. Select 'Apply' to the NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme.

> **New Grant Application**
>
> To apply for funding from one of our grant streams click here.

2. **Start completing or editing your application** by clicking on the 'Edit' button on the application summary page.

3. **Navigate your application** by accessing the different sections of the application form via the list of hyperlinked buttons on the left-hand side of the application portal webpage. Alternatively, you can move from page to page by using the 'Previous' and 'Next' buttons.

4. **Complete the application thoroughly and accurately**, using examples and evidence where appropriate to strengthen your application. denotes a mandatory field. Most questions are associated with contextual help buttons. Clicking on them will open pop-up windows containing brief guidance notes that supplement the published guidance for applicants. It is strongly advised that you refer to the published guidance first and then use contextual help as you complete and review each question.

4. **Save your work regularly** to minimise the risk posed by any local computer or internet problems You will be prompted to save your work if you leave the browser while you are still in application editing mode. You can save and return to the application form as often as you like prior to submission.

5. **Exiting and returning to work on your form:** Should you wish to exit your form, you can return at any time; simply log back in using your username and password and select 'My Applications' from the menu. You will then be presented with a progress summary of your application.

6. **Review the progress of your application** at any time by selecting the 'View/Print' option on the application summary page. This will generate your application as a pdf file.

7. **Submit your application** when you have completed your application form. Prior to submission, the application portal will validate your form by checking that all mandatory questions have been completed. The RMS will provide a list of links to any parts of the form where corrections or additional content are needed. Once the application has been validated successfully, and no further corrections are needed, you can submit the application by clicking on the 'Submit' button on the lower right-hand side of the application summary page.

8. **A programme specific reference number will be assigned to the application once it has been submitted.** After the submission deadline, the application will automatically enter the process for assessment.

If you have any questions regarding your application, please email england.cep@nhs.net

Appendix 2 - Privately Uploading a Video to YouTube

1. Click the 'Upload' video button in the top right-hand corner.

2. Login through a Google account or sign up to create an account.

3. Change the privacy setting for the upload to 'Unlisted' via the dropdown menu.

4. Upload your video via 'Select files to upload'.

5. Double check the video privacy setting is set to 'Unlisted'.

6. Click 'Save changes'.

7. Copy and paste the video URL from the box as shown below, into the RMS application form (as shown on next page).

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NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme 2020

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Details...

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- ✅ Part 2: About You and Your Innovation
- ❌ Part 2 - Section 1: Innovation Details
- ❌ Part 2 - Section 2:

Part 2 - Section 2: Assessed Questions

[Previous] [Next] [Save] [Save And Close]

This section is for you to show us your entrepreneurial potential. The following questions will be assessed according to scoring criteria which evaluates your innovation's clinical impact and viability, and your personal motivation and capability. You are advised to evidence your answers as much as possible (this can be done by providing examples). In addition to uploading an introductory one-minute video elevator pitch, you may also supplement one additional question (Q11, Q12, Q13, Q14 or Q15) with another one-minute video.

11. Please record a one-minute video elevator pitch introducing yourself, your innovation/project/idea and your entrepreneurial aspirations. (max. 1 minute) ⓘ

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