

Innovation Kickstarter Application Crib Sheet

UCLPartners Innovation Kickstarter Programme

Application Crib Sheet

Use this guide to prepare your application before opening the form. The form cannot be saved partway through, so read this fully and draft your answers in advance.

Before You Start

Am I eligible?

The Innovation Kickstarter Programme is only open to staff permanently employed by one of the following five NHS Trusts:

- Barts Health
- Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH)
- Moorfields Eye Hospital
- Royal Free London
- University College London Hospitals (UCLH)

If you aren't employed by one of these organisations, you are not currently eligible to apply.

What to expect

- The form takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete if you use this crib sheet to prepare your answers in advance.
- You cannot save your progress and return later - you must complete and submit the form in a single session.
- Submitted applications cannot be edited, so review your answers carefully before submitting.
- If you realise you've made a mistake after submitting, contact the team using the link provided at the top of the form and on the Innovation Kickstarter webpage.

How to prepare

1. Read through all sections of this crib sheet before opening the form.
2. Draft your answers to the innovation questions (Section 3) in a separate document.
3. Speak to your line manager about attending the programme and confirm their approval in advance.

4. Set aside 10-15 minutes of uninterrupted time with a stable internet connection before you begin

Your name and contact details

Provide your name and contact details as completely as possible.

Full name - as it appears professionally

Email address - use a work email you check regularly

Phone number - optional, but useful if the team needs to contact you

Which cohort are you applying to attend?

Select the cohort you are applying to attend from the list provided.

The programme runs across three full-day, in-person sessions per cohort. You must be able to attend all three dates of your chosen cohort. You will be asked whether you are applying for Cohort 1, Cohort 2, or either. If you select Either, the programme team will confirm your cohort placement with you.

Cohort Dates

Cohort 1 - 11 January, 25 January, 15 February 2027

Cohort 2 - 15 April, 29 April, 20 May 2027

The minimum entry requirements

Confirm you meet the minimum entry requirements. We are looking to recruit individuals at a diverse range of stages in their innovation journey. However, all applicants must meet the minimum entry requirements:

- Be applying with a real healthcare problem and at least a current idea, proposition or solution hypothesis.
- Be willing to test their assumptions and change the proposition or route if the evidence suggests that you should.
- Be willing to complete focused work (approximately 2-3 hours) between workshops, including evidence gathering, where appropriate.
- Be able to commit to attending all three in-person sessions.

If you don't currently meet these requirements, we recommend delaying your application until you do.

At which NHS Trust do you have a permanent role?

Select the NHS Trusts in which you have a permanent role, from the list provided

The Innovation Kickstarter Programme is currently only open to staff working within Barts Health, Great Ormond Street Hospital, Moorfields Eye Hospital, Royal Free London and

University College London Hospitals. Unfortunately, this means you're not eligible for enrolment to our first two cohorts.

However hope to open future cohorts to other organisations. If you'd like to be considered for future cohorts, please continue with this form.

What is your current NHS job title(s) and grade / AfC band?

Share your current NHS job title(s) including the grade or band.

Applications will not be assessed based on job titles or grades. However, we are looking to recruit individuals from a diverse range of roles and seniority so please complete this section as accurately as possible.

Other employers and job titles

List any other employers you have, and your job title with them.

If you work across multiple organisations, list all of them. It's important that we know this so we can advise you clearly on potential commercial arrangements, for example, if you're also employed by a university.

Has your line manager approved your attendance on this programme?

Tell us if your manager has approved your attendance on the programme.

The options are:

- Yes - approval has been confirmed
- No - approval has not been given
- Approval pending - you have started the conversation but not yet received confirmation

We strongly recommend speaking to your line manager before submitting your application. While pending approval is accepted, having confirmed support in place demonstrates commitment and avoids delays if your application is successful.

If approval is not yet granted, we will try to support you in obtaining this but please make your line manager aware of this application.

The following sections are the most important part of the application. These questions assess whether your idea meets the programme's selection criteria. Prepare detailed written answers to each question before opening the form - do not try to write them on the spot.

1. The healthcare problem

Describe the healthcare problem you want to address. Include who is affected and where the problem occurs. Do not describe your proposed solution in this answer.

Be concrete and specific - a strong answer will clearly articulate the gap or inefficiency you have observed, rather than a general challenge in the NHS.

Tips:

- Focus on one clear, well-defined problem rather than several loosely related issues.
- Identify the specific groups affected.
- Share specific examples from your own experience, conversations, feedback, or observations that informed your understanding, where possible.
- Avoid jargon - write as if explaining the problem to someone outside your specialty.

2. Your current idea or proposition

Describe the idea, proposition or solution hypothesis you want to work on. Include what would be different for patients, staff or the service if it worked as intended. If the idea is very early, describe what you are currently exploring rather than presenting it as a finished solution.

Tips:

- Be clear on how and why this is different from existing innovations aiming to address this problem, where relevant.
- Share specific examples from your own experience, conversations, feedback, or observations that lead you to think this will address the problem, where possible.
- Avoid jargon - write as if explaining your idea to someone outside your specialty.

3. What has happened so far?

Select the option that best describes the stage you're currently at for each of the seven multiple choice questions in this section. This will help us understand the work you've done to date and the stage you'll be starting at. As we're looking for innovations with a diverse range of maturity, you aren't expected to have completed all of these.

Select '**Done**' if you have already achieved the stage described in the question.

Select '**Started**' if you have begun, but not yet completed the stage described in the question.

Select 'Not **yet**' if you have not yet begun the stage described in the question.

Select '**Not relevant**' if the stage described in the question is not relevant in your case.

4. What do you need to work out next?

Describe what you think your next step needs to be. Consider, what is the most important thing you still need to find out, test or resolve before you can in order to move forward?

Tips:

- Reflect on any knowledge gaps you have about the problem and/or your proposed solution and how you might fill those gaps.
- Reflect on any assumptions you've made and how you might test their accuracy.
- Reflect on any shortfalls in your innovation you're already aware of and what needs to change to resolve them.

5. Current route

Select up to two of the potential routes you're considering for your idea or proposition. It is perfectly acceptable to select '**Not yet clear**' if that is the case, as this

Applications will not be assessed based on the routes you're considering. However, we are looking to recruit individuals with a diverse range of innovation maturity so please complete this section as accurately as possible.

If you select '**Licensing or technology transfer**' or '**Commercial venture or spinout**' you will be asked six additional multiple-choice questions about the commercial routes you're pursuing to help us better understand the stage you're at.

For these questions, select the option that best describes the current position.

Select '**Yes**' if you have already achieved the stage described in the question.

Select '**Partly**' if you have partly achieved the stage described in the question.

Select '**Not yet**' if you have not yet achieved the stage described in the question.

Select '**Not applicable**' if the stage described in the question is not relevant in your case.⁶
Are you working towards a commercial or funding milestone in the next 6-12 months?

You will also be asked **if you are working towards a commercial or funding milestone in the next 6-12 months**. Don't worry if you're not, but if you are, please tell us a bit about it. Please be careful not to breach any confidentiality agreements in place as you answer this.

Include:

- what the milestone is,
- key decisions you need to make,
- the kind of process or organisations involved,
- what discussions or applications have already happened and
- what needs to happen to achieve the milestone.

Submitting Your Application

- The submission date is filled in automatically - you do not need to enter it.
- Before hitting 'Submit', re-read all of your answers and check for clarity, spelling, and completeness. You can do this by clicking the 'Back' button at the bottom of the page.

- Once submitted, your application cannot be edited.
- If you have made a mistake or have a question, contact the team using the link in the form introduction, or on the Innovation Kickstarter webpage, before or after submitting
- You will see a confirmation screen once your submission has been received successfully.

After Submission

Submission acknowledgement

You will see a confirmation screen once your submission has been received successfully. You won't receive any additional emails confirming submission.

Application review timeline

Submissions will be reviewed throughout the application window.

- For cohort 1, this is 23rd September - 27th November 2026.
- For cohort 2, this is 23rd September 2026 - 8th March 2027.

Shortlisting process

All applications will be reviewed by a panel and assessed primarily on the minimum entry requirements outlined above. Applications will not be assessed based on your current role or seniority, or the maturity of your innovation idea. However, this information will be used to help us ensure programme cohorts are made up of a diverse range of innovations with a varying degrees of maturity.

There will not be any interview or further selection stages.

Notification of outcome

You will be notified of the outcome of your application by email, as soon as it has been reviewed. You can expect to receive notification no later than:

- For cohort 1, 30th November 2026.
- For cohort 2, 4th March 2027.

We will contact you regardless of outcome.

If your application is successful, we will let you know what happens next, including any joining instructions, pre-reading, or preparatory steps before the first session.

If your application is unsuccessful, we will provide brief feedback along with information about re-applying for a future cohort, where relevant.

Contact

If you have any questions about your application after submitting, please contact us via the contact form on our web page.