



Academic Implementation Science Network (AISN) Masterclass

2024 Application Guidelines for September 2024.

Charles Perkins Centre, 13th and 20th of September

1. Masterclass Program Overview

About Sydney Health Partners

Sydney Health Partners (SHP) is a NHMRC accredited Research Translation Centre (RTC) alongside 11 other RTCs across Australia. Please refer to our [website](#) for further information.

Sydney Health Partners' goals include building capacity and capability in the workforce and demonstrating that evidence-based interventions can be successfully implemented and scaled-up in large and diverse health systems. Our partners comprise five large health services (Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District, Northern Sydney Local Health District, Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (at Westmead), Sydney Local Health District and Western Sydney Local Health District), the University of Sydney and 11 medical research institutes.

The SHP Implementation Science Academy was launched in March 2023 and contributes to SHP's vision to 'transform the way research improves patient care and public health in our health system' by accelerating the transfer of research innovations into health care improvements. Further information about the Academy can be found [here](#).

About Academic Implementation Science Network

The Faculty of Medicine and Health (FMH) Academic Implementation Science Network was established in 2021 to enhance translational research and specifically implementation science expertise across the University of Sydney and Sydney Health Partners member organisations. The Network has leveraged the strong foundation and membership base of the SHP Implementation Science Academy Community of Practice to engage with members across the partnership.

The vision of the Academic Implementation Science Network is to advance the science of research translation through Network engagement and facilitation.

The purpose of the Academic Implementation Science Network is to build capacity in implementation science. The Network is responsible for harnessing academic expertise from across the University to progress an agenda for education, training, and research in implementation science.

About Implementation Science

Implementation Science is "the scientific study of methods to promote the systematic uptake of research findings and other evidence-based practices into routine practice, and, hence, to improve



the quality and effectiveness of health services”¹. It seeks to understand the behaviour of healthcare professionals and other stakeholders as a key variable in the sustainable uptake, adoption, and implementation of evidence-based interventions. Further information about Implementation Science can be found [here](#).

About the Masterclass

In 2024 two (2) separate Masterclass Programs will be held, each has different eligibility criteria, but both have the same selection criteria. The guidelines in this document relate to the AISN Masterclass to be held in September 2024.

SHP has designed the Masterclass as a practical introduction to the science of implementation for health professionals and health researchers. The aim is to build capacity and expertise across SHP, thereby better enabling health professionals and researchers within the healthcare system to:

- Solve complex problems
- Translate evidence into practice
- Tackle clinical problems that need practical solutions
- Impact on patient outcomes in the longer term

The 2024 Masterclass program consists of:

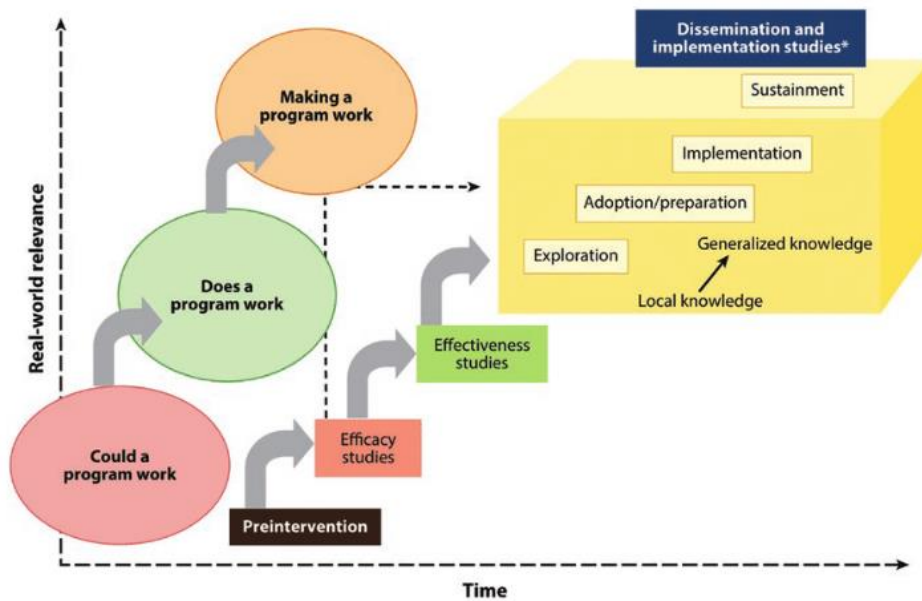
- *SHP Masterclass (May 2024)*: for implementation projects conducted in a clinical setting of SHP Organisations aimed at members of SHP’s Clinical Academic Groups, and employees of SHP Partners Organisations to develop their skills within the field of Implementation Science.
- **Academic Implementation Science Network (AISN) Masterclass (September 2024)**: is aimed at supporting members of the Faculty of Medicine and Health (FMH) AISN to enhance translational research and specifically implementation science expertise across the University of Sydney and Sydney Health Partners partner organisations. Attendees of the AISN Masterclass are required to hold a position, affiliation or be a higher degree research student within the University of Sydney. Applicants living in regional or remote NSW who wish to attend may apply for funding through the network to support their travel (and accommodation if needed).

The research pipeline is illustrated in Figure 1 below. The Masterclass intends to support colleagues working on implementation studies, **rather than** preintervention, efficacy or effectiveness studies.

Note: If your project includes design for implementation as part of an efficacy or effectiveness study, you will still be eligible for the Masterclass. Projects that are exploring the suitability and readiness for implementation, preparing for implementation, or are ready to evaluate implementing or sustaining an evidence-based intervention into practice will be favoured.

¹ Eccles, M.P., Mittman, B.S. Welcome to *Implementation Science*. *Implementation Sci* 1, 1 (2006).
<https://doi.org/10.1186/1748-5908-1-1>

Figure 1. The translational pipeline. Image from: Brown et al, An Overview of Research and Evaluation Designs for Dissemination and Implementation. *Annu.Rev.Public Health* 2017. 38:1–22.



*These dissemination and implementation stages include systematic monitoring, evaluation, and adaptation as required.

2. Eligibility

<p>Member of a SHP Clinical Academic Group (CAG)</p>	<p><i>SHP Masterclass – May 2024</i> Priority will be given for at least one member of each of the 12 SHP CAGs to attend the Masterclass. Further information about the Sydney Health Partners Clinical Academic Groups can be found here.</p> <p>However, applications are competitive, and membership of a CAG does not guarantee entry into the program. The selection criteria is still required to be met.</p> <p><i>AIN Masterclass – September 2024</i> Not Applicable.</p>
<p>Employment</p>	<p><i>SHP Masterclass – May 2024</i> Participants must be employees at a SHP partner organisation.</p> <p><i>AIN Masterclass – September 2024</i></p>



	Attendees are required to be primarily employed through the University of Sydney. Affiliates and Higher Degree Research students of the University of Sydney will also be considered.
Member of the CoP	<p><i>SHP and AISN Masterclass</i></p> <p>Applicants must have signed-up to become a member of the SHP Implementation Science Academy Community of Practice (CoP). If you are not yet a member, you can sign-up here. We want to ensure that all participants in the Masterclass are engaged with our CoP and can share useful insights and learnings from the Masterclass with other members of the CoP.</p> <p>Failure to join the CoP may make your application ineligible.</p>
Where research project is conducted	<p><i>SHP Masterclass – May 2024</i></p> <p>Applicants must state an intention to conduct their planned research within a clinical setting of a SHP partner organisation. Applications that do not include a SHP partner organisation will be considered ineligible. External organisations that are not part of SHP can be included, but they must be in addition to at least one SHP partner organisation.</p> <p><i>AISN Masterclass – September 2024</i></p> <p>There is no requirement to conduct the research within a clinical setting of a SHP partner organisation.</p>

3. Selection Criteria

Study is an implementation science project	The planned study is an implementation science project. That is, projects that are exploring the suitability and readiness for implementation, preparing for implementation, or are ready to evaluate implementing or sustaining an evidence-based intervention into practice. Quality improvement or changing practice research questions will also be considered.
Feasible Project Concept	Applicants must have a feasible project concept to work on throughout the two days; the concept should focus on an <i>implementation science, quality improvement or changing practice/policy</i> research question. The concept can focus on any topic relevant to the health system including patient, provider, organisational or health service change, including pilot testing of implementation strategies. The concept does not need to be a polished piece of work as each applicant will develop the concept throughout the Masterclass.



<p>Intention to Seek Funding</p>	<p>Applicants should have an intention to apply for funding for their project (this could include pilot or seed funding). For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SHP Implementation Science grants (pilot grants offered annually) ○ NSW Health grants and funding details are here ○ Agency for Clinical Innovation grants are here ○ University of Sydney grants are here. For Usyd staff, subscribe to the Research Bulletin by emailing fmh.researchsupport@sydney.edu.au <p>Grant Connect is a useful platform that provides centralised publication of forecast and current Australian Government grant opportunities and grants awarded. Available here</p> <p>If you have existing funding or can access financial support from within a health service organisation, please describe this.</p>
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4. Conditions of Masterclass

Participants are expected to meet these conditions when accepting their place in the Masterclass.

- Complete the required pre-reading.
- Must attend both days of the Masterclass in person.
- Complete the Learning agreement / REDCap survey. The agreement requires all participants to complete three evaluation tasks (pre-Masterclass, post-Masterclass and 6 months post-Masterclass). Each task will take less than 20 minutes to complete. The learning agreement will enable SHP to publish evaluation outcomes about the Masterclass.
- Participants will be asked to give a presentation back at their workplace after they have completed the Masterclass.
- Participants will agree to be contacted by SHP to promote the outcomes of the Masterclass across the SHP Community.

Cost of the Masterclass:

- There is **no cost** for participants.
- Participants are responsible for arranging and paying for their own travel to the Masterclass venue in Sydney.
- SHP **is not** able to provide funding to cover locum replacement for clinical days or to reimburse applicants for leave from their substantive role.

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided on both days.

5. Application Process



Applicants must submit the following documents electronically. The application due date for each Masterclass consists of

- SHP Master Class – Close of Business 15th of March 2024
- **AISN Master Class – Close of Business 19th of July 2024**

The application is to be submitted to shp.implementationscience@sydney.edu.au

NB: Late applications will not be accepted or requests for extensions after the due date.

Application Form

The documents that are required to be submitted must include:

- **Application form**
- **Three-page concept outline** describing your plan: Please use the headings outlined in the application form.
 - Headings 1-11 should be used as a guide and you do not need to include information under every heading (except heading 11), only the sections that are relevant.

File Format: Please submit your application as **one** PDF document.

Review Process: All applications will be reviewed by a panel with expertise in Implementation Science. The panel will use the selection criteria and strive to select applicants with a range of experience.

Wait Listing: Unsuccessful Applicants that meet the Eligibility Criteria may be placed on a wait list in the case that a place becomes available.

Key Dates

Activity	SHP Masterclass	AISN Masterclass
Launch Expression of Interests for the Masterclass	19 th of February	24 th of June
Online Information Session	27 th of February	5 th of July
Applications are due	15 th of March	19 th of July
Notification of Applicants regarding outcome	8th to the 12th of April	12 th to the 16 th of August
Provision of pre-reading material and pre-class survey	19 th of April	26 th of August
Masterclass	10 th of May and the 17 th of May	13 th of September and the 20 th of September

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us via email:

shp.implementationscience@sydney.edu.au



Information Session

An online information session about the Masterclass, and the process for submitting an application, will be held via zoom.