



BiteLabs

Digital Health, AI and Innovation Fellowship

NHS Study Budget & Aspirational Leave Pre-Application Pack

For Resident Doctors in Training Seeking Study Budget Approval

www.bitelabs.io | admin@bitelabs.io

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This pack is designed to give you everything you need to secure NHS aspirational or study budget approval for the BiteLabs Fellowship. 200+ over trainees have already managed to secure funding.

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Section 1: How to Use This Pack

This pre-application pack provides all the documentation, templates, and justification text you need to apply for study budget or aspirational funding. Work through the five steps below:

The Five-Step Application Process

1. **Complete your PDP entry.** Use the PDP template in Section 5 to add an appropriate statement to your e-portfolio. This must be documented before you apply for funding.
2. **Approach your Educational Supervisor.** Use the email template in Section 6 to brief your ES, share this pack, and obtain their written support (an email screenshot is usually sufficient for ALM upload). Accent Leave Manager (ALM) is a centralised digital platform that provides a streamlined approach to managing study leave applications.
3. **Submit your application via ALM.** Apply through Accent Leave Manager (or your deanery's equivalent system) *ideally* 6 weeks before the fellowship start date. Use the justification text in Section 7.
4. **Attach the BiteLabs Pre-Application Letter.** Include the separate BiteLabs Pre-Application Letter (companion document) as supporting evidence. **Make sure you edit it to ensure it is personalised to your application.**
5. **Await approval.** TPD approval typically takes up to two weeks. If declined, your deanery should provide a reason and you may appeal. This is relatively uncommon.

Quick Reference

Item	Detail
Programme duration	8 weeks, part-time
Time commitment	4-6 hours per week (majority outside core clinical hours)
Delivery format	Live, cohort-based, largely remote (one in-person demo day in London for hybrid fellows)
Designed for	NHS clinicians in training and post-CCT clinicians
CPD accreditation	CPD accredited — up to 18 CPD hours available
Programme fee	£999 - £1890; depending if remote or hybrid
Application deadline	Aim to submit by 6 weeks before fellowship start date
Funding category	Aspirational / discretionary (not mandatory curriculum)
Supporting documents	This pack + BiteLabs Pre-Application Letter + PDP screenshot

Section 2: Programme Overview

This section is designed to be shared with your Educational Supervisor or TPD as a concise programme summary.

About BiteLabs

BiteLabs is the UK's leading clinician-led digital health fellowship. Since 2021, the programme has trained over 800 clinicians and healthcare students across UK and US cohorts, helping them develop the practical skills needed to drive digital transformation from within NHS clinical roles. Faculty are drawn from Google Health, YouTube Health, Accurx, and 100+ other health technology organisations. The programme is actively supported by Amazon AWS Activate and 30+ other industry partners. BiteLabs is a part of BiteWorld Ltd, an organisation that has trained over 250,000 clinicians and was included in the late Her Majesty's New Years Honours List 2021 for services to healthcare education.

What Participants Gain

Capability Area	What This Means in Practice
Clinical Workflow Analysis	Ability to map, audit, and redesign clinical processes using lean methodology
Quality Improvement	Structured approach to identifying inefficiencies and designing QI projects
Digital Tool Literacy	Practical understanding of how AI and digital tools integrate into clinical pathways
Regulatory Awareness	Understanding of MHRA/UKCA digital health regulation and information governance
Product Implementation	Skills to take a clinical idea from problem statement to viable proposal
Leadership and Influence	Stakeholder engagement, change management, and presenting to decision-makers

Programme Outputs

Every participant completes the fellowship with:

- A digital health project addressing a real-world NHS challenge
- Portfolio-ready evidence for ARCP, annual appraisal, and job applications
- A structured implementation plan for deploying a digital or quality improvement change in their department
- Up to 18 CPD hours, which can be logged toward annual appraisal and revalidation
- Access to the BiteLabs alumni community of 800+ clinicians in digital health roles

Fellowship Structure

Week	Module	Key Learning
1	Clinical Product Management	Understanding clinical needs; mapping patient journeys and workflows
2	Lean Canvas & Problem Statements	Formulating testable hypotheses; defining the problem worth solving
3	User Research & Evidence	Qualitative and quantitative methods for validating clinical problems
4	Regulatory & Compliance	MHRA guidance, DTAC, information governance, and CE marking for digital health
5	Product Commercialisation	Understand why some products are successful and others aren't in the NHS
6	Medical Content Creation, Networking and Pitching	Intricacies of content creation for medical products and the power of clinical networks
7	AI in healthcare	Ethics and evaluating clinical models, LLMs, real-world cases, bias detection
8	Final Project ('Demo Day')	Present a real-world product for assessment and portfolio

**Order of weeks is subject to change*

Section 3: NHS 10-Year Plan & Workforce Strategy Alignment

The NHS *Fit for the Future* 10-Year Health Plan (July 2025) and the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan set a clear direction for digital transformation and clinician upskilling. The BiteLabs Fellowship sits directly in the crosshairs of this agenda.

The NHS 10-Year Plan — Relevant Commitments

"The NHS will become the world's most AI-enabled health system, with AI seamlessly integrated into clinical pathways." — NHS Fit for the Future, 10-Year Health Plan, July 2025

10-Year Plan Priority	Relevance to BiteLabs Fellowship
AI to Drive Productivity <i>One of the Plan's 'five big bets'</i>	Fellows develop direct, practical understanding of how AI tools are evaluated, deployed, and clinically governed — translating policy intent into clinical reality.
Analogue to Digital Shift <i>Core of the three 'big shifts'</i>	Fellowship modules on digital workflow design and service improvement directly equip clinicians to lead this transition within their own departments.
Workforce Digital Capability <i>NHS Workforce Plan requirement</i>	The Plan explicitly requires NHS trusts to build digital literacy across the clinical workforce. BiteLabs directly addresses the upskilling demand created by this mandate.
Service Transformation (3% spend) <i>Mandatory trust investment</i>	NHS organisations are required to direct at least 3% of annual spend to service transformation. BiteLabs-trained clinicians are equipped to design and lead these initiatives.
Hospital to Community Shift <i>Third 'big shift'</i>	Fellows develop skills in digital platform design and community-facing service redesign — directly relevant to the NHS's strategy of decentralising care delivery.

NHS Long Term Workforce Plan — Connection

The NHS Long Term Workforce Plan identifies digital capability as a non-negotiable component of future clinical roles. The Plan anticipates that domestic clinical training will need to expand significantly to meet NHS workforce needs, with a particular emphasis on ensuring that newly trained clinicians are equipped for digital-first care delivery from the outset of their careers. BiteLabs provides the practical training bridge between NHS clinical roles and the digital fluency that the workforce plan demands.

Approver note: Funding this fellowship is consistent with NHS England's stated workforce development priorities.

Section 4: GMC Generic Professional Capabilities Mapping

The GMC Generic Professional Capabilities (GPC) framework describes the fundamental, career-long capabilities required of every doctor. These nine domains underpin all specialty curricula and are required for CCT recommendation. The table below maps BiteLabs modules to relevant GPC domains, demonstrating curriculum alignment across specialty boundaries.

Curriculum-to-GPC Mapping Table

BiteLabs Module	GMC Domain	Capability Developed
Clinical Product Management & Workflow Design	Domain 7 <i>Leadership & Team Working</i>	Ability to analyse clinical workflows, identify inefficiencies, and propose structured improvements
Lean Canvas & Problem Statements	Domain 8 <i>Patient Safety & QI</i>	QI methodology; hypothesis-driven approach to service redesign
User Research & Evidence Gathering	Domain 6 <i>Capabilities in Research & Scholarship</i>	Evidence-based approach to clinical problem definition; quantitative and qualitative data analysis
Regulatory & Compliance in Digital Health	Domain 3 <i>Professionalism & Patient Safety</i>	Understanding of information governance, DTAC, MHRA digital health regulation, and safe AI deployment
AI in Clinical Practice	Domain 7 & 8 <i>Leadership & QI</i>	Critical evaluation of AI clinical evidence; practical application of AI tools in clinical settings
Commercialisation & Implementation	Domain 7 <i>Leadership & Management</i>	Stakeholder engagement; change management; presenting clinical improvement proposals to senior decision-makers
Final Project (Service Improvement / Digital Health; 'Demo Day')	Domains 7, 8 & 6 <i>Leadership, QI & Research</i>	Integrated evidence of clinical leadership, QI thinking, and scholarly approach to a real-world problem

Note for TPDs: This programme does not replace specialty-specific curriculum requirements. It provides supplementary aspirational development in domains common to all GMC curricula, as described in the GPC framework (GMC, 2017). NHSE guidance confirms that aspirational leave may be approved for activities that enhance the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of the doctor in training, even where not mapped to a direct curriculum requirement.

Section 5: Personal Development Plan (PDP) Templates

A documented PDP entry is required before applying for aspirational study leave. Add your chosen template below to your e-portfolio (RiTT, Maxims, or equivalent) and discuss it with your Educational Supervisor before applying. You may adapt the wording to reflect your specific development needs and specialty context.

How to Use These Templates

1. Choose the template most appropriate for your grade (below). Adapt the bracketed text to your specialty and specific learning needs.
2. Add the completed statement to your e-portfolio PDP section for the current academic year.
3. Discuss the entry with your Educational Supervisor at your next meeting and ask them to acknowledge it.
4. Take a screenshot or export a PDF of your PDP entry — you will need to upload this with your ALM application.

Template A — Foundation Year (FY1/FY2)

Development Need: I want to develop foundational knowledge of digital health, quality improvement methodology, and AI in clinical practice to prepare for specialty training. I have identified a gap in my understanding of how digital tools and data are applied to improve NHS services.

Planned Activity: I plan to complete the BiteLabs Digital Health, AI and Innovation Fellowship — an 8-week, part-time, fully remote programme (4-6 hours/week, outside clinical hours). The programme covers clinical workflow design, quality improvement, AI in clinical practice, and regulatory governance in digital health.

Expected Outcomes: I will produce a portfolio-ready service improvement or digital health project, demonstrating evidence for GMC GPC Domains 7 (Leadership) and 8 (Quality Improvement). This aligns with the NHS 10-Year Plan priority of building a digitally capable clinical workforce and will complement my progression into specialty training.

Template B — Core Training (CT1/CT2/CT3 or equivalent)

Development Need: At this stage of my training I am seeking to develop my leadership and quality improvement capabilities beyond core curriculum requirements. I have identified digital health and AI in clinical practice as areas where I have limited formal training, and where the NHS is increasingly expecting clinicians to operate competently.

Planned Activity: I plan to complete the BiteLabs Digital Health, AI and Innovation Fellowship (8 weeks, part-time, remote/hybrid), which will develop my capabilities in clinical product management, service improvement, AI evaluation, and regulatory governance. The programme is structured around NHS clinical roles and does not require release from clinical duties.

Expected Outcomes: I will produce a service improvement or digital health project as tangible ARCP evidence. This activity maps to GMC GPC Domains 6 (Research), 7

(Leadership & Team Working), and 8 (Patient Safety & Quality Improvement), and is consistent with the NHS 10-Year Health Plan's workforce digital capability priorities.

Template C — Specialty Training (ST1–ST4 or equivalent)

Development Need: As I progress through specialty training, I want to develop practical skills in digital health, service improvement, and AI in clinical practice that will distinguish me as a future consultant and NHS leader. My current development plan does not include formal digital health training, and I have identified this as a gap relative to the NHS 10-Year Plan requirements for future clinical leaders.

Planned Activity: BiteLabs Digital Health, AI and Innovation Fellowship — 8 weeks, part-time, remote/hybrid. The programme will develop my capabilities across clinical product management, user research, AI evaluation, and implementation strategy. Content is delivered by clinician innovators from leading health technology organisations and is directly applicable to my practice.

Expected Outcomes: A completed digital health or service improvement project portfolio entry suitable for ARCP; evidence of GMC GPC Domain 7 (Leadership), Domain 8 (QI), and Domain 6 (Research); and capability to design and implement a digital improvement within my department. Directly aligned with NHS 10-Year Health Plan (July 2025) digital workforce priorities.

Template D — Higher Specialty / Post-CCT

Development Need: As a senior clinician, I want to develop the skills to lead NHS digital transformation initiatives in my department. I have identified a need to improve my understanding of health technology product design, AI deployment, and regulatory governance to fulfil a leadership role in digital health innovation.

Planned Activity: BiteLabs Digital Health, AI and Innovation Fellowship — 8 weeks, part-time, remote. The programme delivers practical, applied training in digital health strategy, AI in clinical settings, and service transformation, delivered alongside active clinical commitments. This will directly inform my department's digital improvement agenda.

Expected Outcomes: A structured service improvement or digital health project ready for departmental presentation; enhanced ability to evaluate and procure digital health solutions for my team; and a professional network in NHS digital health and health technology. Aligned with the NHS 10-Year Plan's requirement for clinical leaders to drive the analogue-to-digital shift.

Section 6: Educational Supervisor Conversation Guide & Email Template

Before you can submit your budget application, your Educational Supervisor (ES) must support it. This section gives you everything you need to approach that conversation confidently.

How to Approach the Conversation

The most effective approach is to brief your ES in advance via email rather than raising it cold in your supervision meeting.

Key points to make when you speak to your ES:

- **Fully remote, no rota impact:** The programme runs online and is structured to avoid conflicting with clinical duties. Your ES does not need to arrange cover.
- **PDP alignment:** Show your ES the PDP entry you have already added to your e-portfolio (Section 5). This demonstrates you have engaged thoughtfully with the activity.
- **NHS 10-Year Plan hook:** The NHS Fit for the Future 10-Year Plan (July 2025) explicitly calls for digitally capable clinicians. This training directly responds to that mandate.
- **What they need to provide:** Simply an email confirming their support, which you will upload to ALM. No formal paperwork required from them.
- **Timeline:** You are applying prospectively, *ideally* at least 6 weeks before the programme starts.

Email Template — Requesting ES Support

Subject: Study Budget / Aspirational Leave Application — BiteLabs Fellowship [COHORT DATES]

Dear [ES NAME],

I am writing to ask for your support for a study budget / aspirational leave application. I would like to apply for funding to attend the BiteLabs Digital Health, AI and Innovation Fellowship — an 8-week, part-time, largely remote programme for NHS clinicians **[COHORT DATES]**.

The programme covers digital health, AI in clinical practice, quality improvement, and service redesign. It is delivered largely remotely (4-6 hours/week designed to be outside clinical hours).. I will produce a service improvement or digital health project as portfolio evidence for ARCP.

I have added this to my PDP and would be happy to discuss it at our next meeting. I have attached a programme overview and the NHS study budget justification pack for your reference.

If you are happy to support this application, could you reply to this email confirming your support?

The programme fee is **[FEE; £999 if remote or £1890 is hybrid]**. Please let me know if you need any further information.

Many thanks,

What Your ES Needs to Confirm

The email reply from your ES does not need to be detailed. A simple confirmation such as the following is sufficient for most deaneries:

"I confirm that I support [NAME]'s application to attend the BiteLabs Digital Health, AI and Innovation Fellowship as an aspirational study leave activity. This has been discussed and is included in their PDP for [YEAR]."

Section 7: Application Justification Templates

When submitting your study leave application or your deanery's equivalent system, you will typically be asked to provide a free-text justification for the activity. Use one of the templates below, adapting the bracketed text to your circumstances.

Template A — Standard Aspirational Justification (~150 words)

Use this for most applications. Adapt the bracketed fields.

I am applying for aspirational study leave to attend the BiteLabs Digital Health, AI and Innovation Fellowship (8 weeks, part-time, largely remote). I am applying for the **REMOTE (£999) / HYBRID (£1890) [DELETE AS APPROPRIATE]** programme. The fellowship develops practical capabilities in clinical workflow analysis, quality improvement, AI in clinical practice, and digital health governance — directly aligned with GMC Generic Professional Capabilities Domains 7 (Leadership & Team Working) and 8 (Patient Safety & Quality Improvement).

The programme is fully remote and delivered outside core clinical hours (4-6 hours/week), with no impact on rota or clinical commitments. I will produce a portfolio-ready service improvement or digital health project as evidence for ARCP and annual appraisal.

This training aligns with the NHS Fit for the Future 10-Year Health Plan (July 2025) commitment to building a digitally capable clinical workforce. My Educational Supervisor has reviewed and confirmed support for this application, and this activity has been documented in my PDP for [YEAR].

Template B — Specialty-Specific Version (~180 words)

Use this version if your TPD asks for more specific curriculum justification.

I am applying for aspirational study leave funding for the BiteLabs Digital Health, AI and Innovation Fellowship (**REMOTE (£999) / HYBRID (£1890) [DELETE AS APPROPRIATE]**). This 8-week, part-time, largely remote programme is designed for NHS clinicians and directly supports my development in quality improvement, leadership, and digital capability — GMC GPC domains required across all specialty curricula.

In [SPECIALTY], digital health and AI are increasingly embedded in [RELEVANT CLINICAL AREA] — e.g. radiology reporting, diagnostic pathways, clinical documentation]. This programme will equip me to evaluate and contribute to digital initiatives within my department, directly improving patient care and service efficiency.

The programme produces a service improvement project as a concrete ARCP portfolio entry. It is fully remote (4-6 hrs/week outside clinical hours) with no rota impact. There is no equivalent NHS England-funded programme offering this combination of digital health, AI, and QI training.

Educational Supervisor support confirmed. Activity documented on PDP [YEAR].

Application Checklist

Item	Status
PDP entry added to e-portfolio and acknowledged by ES	☐ Complete
ES support email received and saved as PDF	☐ Complete
Review, edit and send BiteLabs Pre-Application Letter	☐ Complete
This pack attached as supporting evidence	☐ Complete
If fee > £1,000: NHSE approval pathway confirmed with local PGME office. N.B remote fellowship is £999 and hybrid is £1890	☐ Complete / N/A
Rota coordinator notified <i>The only clinical time off that may be required is week 8 for hybrid fellows; all other sessions can be watched asynchronously if needed</i>	☐ Complete
Full approval received	☐ Awaited

Section 8: Value for Money Assessment

NHS study leave guidance requires approvers to consider value for money when evaluating applications. This section provides the evidence needed to demonstrate that the BiteLabs Fellowship represents sound use of the study budget.

Comparable Programmes — Cost Comparison

Programme Type	Format	Duration	Approx. Cost	Portfolio Evidence
BiteLabs Fellowship	Remote / part-time	8 weeks	£999-£1890	Skills + Real-world experience + Project + up to 18 CPD hours
Typical Leadership & Management Course (in-person)	In-person (1-3 days)	1-3 days	£500-£2,000+	Certificate only
PG Certificate in Digital Health (University)	Blended / campus	1-2 years	£3,000-£8,000+	Academic qualification
NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme	In-person + remote	12 months	Competitive — not funded	Portfolio + network
QI / PDSA workshops (Trust-based)	In-person	1-2 days	Varies (funded centrally)	Limited portfolio output

Why BiteLabs Represents Value for Money

- **Largely remote delivery eliminates almost all travel and accommodation costs** that would typically be claimed for equivalent in-person programmes.
- **No rota cover required**, sessions run outside core clinical hours (and are also recorded) — removing a hidden cost that applies to most face-to-face courses. The only caveat is hybrid fellows attending the in-person capstone project (1 evening)
- **Tangible, portfolio-ready output** produced by every participant — unlike shorter courses that generate only a certificate, BiteLabs produces real-world evidence directly usable at ARCP and annual appraisal to demonstrate quality improvement and digital health innovation.
- **Breadth of curriculum** — six weeks of substantive content across domains including AI, regulation, and implementation would require multiple individual courses to replicate, at significantly higher combined cost.
- **Alumni community access** — participants gain ongoing access to a network of 800+ clinicians in digital health roles, providing long-term professional development value beyond the 8 weeks.

Section 9: Regional Variation Guidance

NHS study leave policy is managed at a regional level and there are variations between deaneries in thresholds, approval chains, and systems. This section summarises key differences relevant to your BiteLabs application.

Action required: Before submitting your application, check your deanery's specific study leave guidance at your local PGME office or deanery website. Do not assume these figures are current — policy changes regularly.

Overview of Key Regional Differences

Deanery / Region	System Used	Aspirational Approval Chain	£1,000+ Threshold
East of England	Accent Leave Manager (ALM) + NHSE EoE additional form	ES approval + TPD sign-off required for all aspirational activities. Use additional aspirational application form for NHSE EoE review.	NHSE EoE approval required. Submit form to england.studyleave.eoe@nhs.net . Minimum 6 weeks before date.
Thames Valley	ALM (Accent Leave Manager)	ES email approval (PDF uploaded to ALM) + TPD email approval for non-essential activities.	NHSE approval required via ALM for non-essential courses above £1,000. Apply 6 weeks in advance.
East Midlands	Accent Leave Manager (ALM)	ES discussion + PDP documentation required. TPD approval via ALM exception pathway.	Budget increases taking total spend over £3,000 require additional Associate PG Dean approval.
South West (Peninsula & Severn)	ALM + Trust local process	ES approval documented on PDP first. TPD approval for aspirational courses. Head of School for courses not on list.	NHSE SW approval required for courses above £1,000 on course list. Sent via Trust to NHSE SW.
North West (NWPGMD)	Accent Leave Manager (ALM)	ES support required. TPD approval for discretionary/aspirational activities via ALM exception route.	Check current NHSE NW threshold with PGME office — policy updated regularly.
London / LASEPGMDE	PGMDE Support Portal + Trust process	ES agreement, then TPD/HoS request. Expected turnaround: 3 weeks including HoS decision. Submit at least 6 weeks before event.	HoS/ADD approval required for aspirational courses with significant cost. NHSE LASE may also need to approve.

Deanery / Region	System Used	Aspirational Approval Chain	£1,000+ Threshold
Yorkshire & Humber	ALM (Accent Leave Manager)	Pre-ALM: obtain rota coordinator agreement and ES support. ES support confirmed in ALM by trainee declaration. TPD approver reviews in ALM.	Consult Head of School before approving via ALM if above local threshold.

Principles That Apply Across All Regions

- **Applications must ideally be prospective:** submit to ALM or your deanery's system *ideally* at least 6 weeks before the programme start date.
- **ES agreement precedes ALM submission:** most deaneries require documented ES support (email screenshot or PDF) uploaded with the application.
- **PDP must be documented first:** aspirational activities should be in your e-portfolio PDP before you apply for funding. Applications without PDP evidence may be rejected.
- **TPD approval required for all aspirational activities:** even where the activity is not on a pre-approved list, TPD sign-off is standard across all NHS England regions.
- **NHSE-level approval for higher-cost courses:** most regions require NHSE approval for aspirational activities above £1,000. This is in addition to, not instead of, TPD approval.

Useful Contacts

Resource	Where to Find It
Your deanery's study leave policy	Search '[deanery name] study leave guidance' or visit your deanery website's 'doctors in training' section
ALM (Accent Leave Manager)	accent.hicom.co.uk/Portal/Live/Web — your deanery will have provided login details
PGME office at your Trust	Your Trust's Medical Education department — for local approval processes and claims
BiteLabs support	admin@bitelabs.io — for any further information required for your application

Section 10: Frequently Asked Questions for Educational Supervisors and TPDs

This section is designed to be shared directly with your Educational Supervisor or Training Programme Director to address common questions about the BiteLabs Fellowship as a study leave activity.

About the Programme

Is this an accredited or NHSE-approved programme?

BiteLabs is not on a deanery pre-approved course list, which means it falls under aspirational / discretionary study leave. However, NHSE guidance is clear that it will not prohibit attendance at educational activities that are not on an approved list, provided the activity is appropriate for the trainee's stage of training, has ES/TPD support, and is included in the trainee's PDP. BiteLabs is supported by over 50 organisations, including Amazon AWS Activate, and advisors from over 100 NHS and health technology organisations. It is also an accredited body with EduQual, is CME accredited in the USA, and is now UK CPD accredited (up to 18 CPD hours).

How many CPD hours does the programme carry?

The fellowship is CPD accredited for up to 18 CPD hours. These can be logged toward your annual appraisal and revalidation as evidence of continuing professional development, alongside the portfolio-ready service improvement or digital health project each participant completes.

Will this require the trainee to take time away from clinical work?

No. The programme is largely remote (hybrid fellows have an in-person capstone project presentation) and runs at approximately 4-6 hours per week, with sessions scheduled outside core NHS clinical hours wherever possible. All sessions are recorded so can be watched back in your own time. The only possible leave day requirement is demo day at the end of the programme (a Wednesday evening) for hybrid fellows.

Is there a similar NHS England-funded programme?

No. There is currently no NHS England-funded equivalent offering this specific combination of digital health, AI in clinical practice, quality improvement methodology, and implementation training in a format accessible to resident doctors in training. NHSE study leave guidance confirms funding may be considered for aspirational activities where no equivalent is offered locally. The closest comparators are the NHS Clinical Entrepreneur programme and Topol Digital Fellowship, both of which require significantly longer time commitments and have different value propositions.

Is an 8-week remote fellowship appropriate as study leave?

Yes. NHSE guidance defines aspirational study leave as 'educational or professional development opportunities that enhance the knowledge, skills and attitudes of the doctor in training, or enhance any aspect of patient care' — this programme meets that definition across multiple GMC GPC domains. Hundreds of trainees have already had budget funding

for the fellowship. The format (part-time, largely remote) also means it is more efficient and less disruptive than a typical course of equivalent educational value.

About Approval and Funding

Does this need TPD approval or is ES approval sufficient?

For aspirational activities, TPD approval is required across all NHS England deaneries in addition to ES support. ES support should be secured first (and documented), and the ALM application will then be routed to the TPD for approval. If the fee exceeds £1,000 (the remote fellowship is £999 and hybrid is £1890), NHSE-level approval is also required in most regions — the Trust PGME office will submit this on the trainee's behalf.

What happens if this is declined?

If the application is declined, the trainee should receive a written reason from the deanery. Common reasons for decline include: insufficient PDP documentation, missing ES approval, submission within 6 weeks of the activity, or the activity not being considered appropriate for the trainee's stage of training. If declined on grounds of value or appropriateness, the trainee can provide additional supporting evidence and submit an appeal. **BiteLabs can provide additional supporting correspondence on request.**

What evidence will the trainee produce?

Every participant completes the fellowship with a digital health project addressing a real NHS challenge. This is portfolio-ready evidence suitable for ARCP and annual appraisal, including evidence for GMC GPC Domains 7 and 8. The project is structured, supervisor-reviewed, and graded.

About the Provider

Who are BiteLabs?

BiteLabs is a clinician-led digital health fellowship founded by NHS clinicians, with over 800 alumni across UK and US cohorts. BiteLabs is a part of BiteWorld Ltd, an organisation that has trained over 250,000 clinicians and was included in the late Her Majesty's New Years Honours List 2021 for services to healthcare education. It is supported by over 50 organisations and has collaborated with Royal Colleges, such as the RCGP, and the Royal Society of Medicine, and Amazon AWS Activate, with advisors from organisations including Google Health, YouTube Health, Accurx, and Babylon Health.

The programme, and BiteWorld Ltd, was founded by Dr Azeem Alam, BEM, BSc (Hons), PGCert (ClinEd), FHEA, FRSA, MAcadMed, NHS Radiology Registrar and Honorary Clinical Research Fellow at Imperial College London.

How do I get more information?

For any further information required for this study leave application, please contact the BiteLabs team directly: admin@bitelabs.io or visit www.bitelabs.io.

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