

Grow MedTech and Translate

Evaluation of the Translate MedTech and Grow MedTech alignment – invitation to quote

Background

Translate

Translate MedTech is a research translation programme that aims to enhance and embed medical technology innovation know-how across the Leeds and Sheffield City Regions.

We lead a targeted innovation development programme to enhance innovation awareness, understanding and capacity.

We are a partnership of universities in the Leeds and Sheffield City Regions with expertise in the development of new medical technologies.

The programme, originally funded by the HEFCE (now Office for Students) Catalyst Fund, is now financed by the partner universities of Bradford, Huddersfield, Leeds Beckett, Leeds, Sheffield Hallam and York.

Working together, smarter, faster. Developing people, progressing technologies.

Our training programme, secondment and early stage innovation support are fully funded and open to PhD students, post-doctoral researchers, academic staff, and technology transfer teams within our partner universities:

- Secondments provide the opportunity for researchers to temporarily take up a role in a complementary organisation, with travel and accommodation funded by the Translate MedTech programme
- Our flexible, pick and mix programme of introductory, stand-alone training courses, designed to equip researchers with the skills needed to translate research ideas into medical technology products and clinical solutions

We also host facilitated innovation workshops that are driven by real clinical needs and industry challenges. These workshops provide an opportunity to form new collaborations and develop potential new technologies.

Grow MedTech

Grow MedTech is a major UK programme providing specialist support for innovation in medical technologies, involving a consortium of six universities across the Leeds and Sheffield City Regions. Our sector-specialist innovation support is helping to put these regions at the forefront of the UK's medtech sector.

We act as partnership brokers, proactively connecting people from academia, industry and clinical practice to collaborate on developing new medical technologies. Our six, skilled and experienced technology innovation managers are based in our partner universities, but work collectively as a team, connecting with academics, companies and clinicians from across the regions. Our ambition is to involve patients at every stage of the journey.

We provide funding for technologies from initial concepts at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 2 and 3 through to proof of commercial concept at TRL 5. We also provide support for projects at TRL 5+. More importantly, academics and companies can access sector-specialist expertise and advice to help them progress their technologies, create effective partnerships and leverage additional funding from other sources. We help projects bring together different disciplines and technologies – including digital and AI – to enable our partners to access the strongest market opportunities.

Grow MedTech is a collaboration between the Universities of Bradford, Huddersfield, Leeds Beckett, Sheffield Hallam and York, led by the University of Leeds and funded through the [Research England Connecting Capability Fund](#). Our track record in successful innovation support is well proven and our model and processes can be used as good practice in other sectors and regions.

Vision

Our vision is to make the Leeds and Sheffield City Regions the best place in the UK for medtech innovation.

Aims

- To work with companies to understand their technology development and innovation needs, and barriers to engaging with the knowledge base.
- To collaborate with clinicians, patients, and health and social care organisations to identify local and national challenges and priorities.
- To strategically match academics and companies, some of whom may not currently apply their know-how to medtech challenges, to create combination and convergent technologies that are ripe for commercial development.
- To work with academics and company partners to validate and de-risk new technologies to progress them towards market deployment and safe clinical practice.
- To provide a managed pool of proof of market, feasibility, and proof of commercial concept funding – leading to: validated and de-risked technology opportunities with established market need; technical prototypes that are positioned to secure proof of commercial concept funding; and product prototypes that have been de-risked to provide investor confidence.

Further information: <https://growmed.tech/>

Purpose of the evaluation

Through this evaluation project, we aim to:

- explore the value of the alignment of the two programmes
- inform our reporting back to funders and other stakeholders
- inform the evolution of current activities and the development of future programmes
- understand whether we have demonstrated good practice in areas of activity, identify which themes these are and, where appropriate, inform the development of good-practice guides to share with peers and complimentary programmes

Brief – evaluation of our alignment with Translate MedTech

We require an evaluation consultancy to evaluate our programme as it comes to the end of the funding period:

- Has the alignment of the programme resulted in significant outcomes? if so what are they?
- Does the synergy of the programmes demonstrate areas of good practice in knowledge exchange (KE)? If so, what are these?
- Has one programme enhanced the other and vice-versa?

- Has Translate given benefit to Grow MedTech activities and Grow MedTech researchers?

We envision a mixed approach of secondary desk-based research including analysis of programme documentation and primary research collecting qualitative evidence to evaluate the programme as outlined above.

Interviewees/participants for qualitative evidence will be agreed at the project kick-off meeting but should involve key programme stakeholders, both internal and external to the programme. Examples of programme documentation we can provide is listed below - this is not an exhaustive list:

- Quantitative metrics of outcomes and outputs
- Mid-term evaluation documentation (from an internal facilitated workshop)
- Programme aims and objectives for Translate MedTech
- Quantitative metrics of outcomes and outputs for Translate MedTech
- Blogs, case studies and videos, and other content outlining Translate MedTech successes

Consultants must provide evidence of conducting similar work, preferably for evaluation in higher education. Experience of the medtech sector is advantageous but not essential.

Timescale

Delivery by 30 June 2021

Key deliverables

Interim report and meeting to review outcomes so far and provide a useful framework for planning subsequent good practice guides

Written final report addressing requirements outlined above, with recommendations of suggested elements to develop into good practice guides.

Budget

The budget for this work is up to £10,000 (excluding VAT and including all expenses).

Quotes

Prospective consultants should outline:

- experience and track record in conducting similar work
- named people who will be involved in the work, together with CVs where relevant
- the approach they would adopt to address the requirements described above, including approach to primary and secondary research
- Suggestions for additional activities that may support the delivery of the evaluation or good practice guides. These additional value adding activities should include associated costs
- a detailed breakdown of costs and timescales
- approach to data protection processes and compliance with GDPR

Deadline for responses: email R.H.Grant@leeds.ac.uk by 12pm, 31 March 2021

Contact

If you have any questions or require further information, contact:

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