

Call for submissions

Healthcare Educators NET Conference 2026 - Practice ready: Journeys, transitions, and professional growth

A conference brought to you by the Networking and Innovation in Healthcare Education committee and Advance HE

Date: 2 December 2026

Location: Virtual

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1. Call for submissions

The Networking and Innovation in Healthcare Education Conference Committee and Advance HE invite healthcare educators in the UK and internationally to submit abstracts for sessions at the forthcoming Healthcare Educators NET Conference 2026: ***Practice ready: journeys, transitions, and professional growth***, taking place virtually on 2 December 2026.

NET is the leading international conference for networking in healthcare education, bringing together educators to share practice, build connections and explore new ideas. Over many years, the conference has supported valuable national and international collaborations in both research, clinical and educational development.

The conference welcomes participants from across the healthcare education community, including colleagues working in nursing, counselling, dentistry, dietetics, general practice, midwifery, medicine, occupational therapy, oncology, paramedic practice, pharmacy, physiotherapy, psychology, radiography, radiology, speech and language therapy, veterinary education and related fields.

This breadth of professional perspectives enriches discussion and debate, creating opportunities for shared learning across disciplines and contexts. NET is known for its supportive, friendly and engaging atmosphere, offering an especially welcoming space for first-time presenters as well as established colleagues.

Recent delegates have described NET as:

- “such an inclusive, collegial and welcoming conference”
- “a vibrant event with a good buzz about it”
- “as a new presenter and first-time delegate, I felt supported and inspired”

2. Submission process

Abstracts should be submitted to our online site at:

https://advancehe.smapply.org/prog/healthcare_educators_net_conference_2026/

On the online form you will be asked for the following:

- Acceptance of Advance HE's privacy policy.
- Acceptance of the conference submission terms and conditions – please read these carefully.
- Contact details for the main session presenter and any co-presenters of the session.
- A 100-word promotional abstract of your session for marketing purposes only. This section **will not** be included for review by our Scientific Panel and as such should not be perceived as an introductory or background statement for your submission.
- The type of session you are submitting (oral presentation or poster).
- The theme to which your session most closely aligns.
- A summary of your proposed session, with a maximum word count of 500 words. Summaries should include: background to your research or innovation or why an issue should be raised for debate (including positioning within current literature or recent trends and any international relevance); research or evaluation methodology; key findings from your research or innovation; what lessons conference delegates will learn from your session; why this topic is relevant to the healthcare sector.
- Full references for all citations included in your submission, in full Harvard style.
- Five keywords relating to your session (to assist with scheduling the conference programme)

3. Conference themes

Through the five themes outlined below, the conference will explore *journeys, transitions and professional growth* across healthcare education. As this year's conference will take place fully virtually, it also offers an opportunity to consider the creative and innovative ways in which the sector is responding to a fast-changing educational landscape.

Together, these five thematic areas highlight key stages, challenges and opportunities across the learning journey, with a focus on how healthcare education can support workforce development and the delivery of excellence.

a. Recruiting, retaining and nurturing the future workforce

This theme focuses on how healthcare education can attract, support and sustain the future workforce. We welcome submissions that explore approaches to recruitment, retention, student and staff wellbeing, and the creation of compassionate environments in which people can thrive, develop and remain within the profession. Contributions may also highlight initiatives that strengthen progression pathways and help build a sustainable, skilled and resilient workforce.

We welcome abstracts on topics including, but not limited to:

- widening participation and inclusive recruitment
- belonging, wellbeing and retention across the learner journey
- supporting transition into professional education or practice
- sustainable workforce development and career progression

b. Regulatory standards, inclusion and fair access

This theme focuses on the relationship between regulatory standards, inclusion and equitable access in healthcare education. We welcome submissions that examine how standards, policies and professional requirements can support fairness, widen participation and enable accessible learning environments. Contributions may also explore practical approaches to addressing systemic barriers and embedding inclusion across educational provision.

We welcome abstracts on topics including, but not limited to:

- meeting regulatory requirements in inclusive ways
- fair access, widening participation and student success
- reducing barriers for disabled and underrepresented learners
- inclusive curriculum, assessment and learning environments

c. Transformative support and professional journeys

This theme focuses on the kinds of support that enable learners and professionals to grow, progress and flourish across their careers. We welcome submissions that explore mentoring, coaching, supervision, tailored support and other developmental approaches that enhance confidence, resilience and progression. Contributions may also highlight how support can be designed to meet the needs of people at different career stages and in different professional contexts.

We welcome abstracts on topics including, but not limited to:

- mentoring, coaching and supervision
- support for transition points across education and practice
- wellbeing, resilience and professional identity
- career development and progression pathways

d. Digital readiness for contemporary practice

This theme focuses on how healthcare education prepares learners and professionals for practice in digitally enabled environments. We welcome submissions that explore the development of digital capability, confidence and critical awareness needed for safe, ethical and effective practice. Contributions may also consider how digital skills are embedded in curricula and how educators are responding to technological change across healthcare systems.

We welcome abstracts on topics including, but not limited to:

- digital capability and confidence in learners and educators
- preparing students for technology-enabled practice
- digital professionalism, ethics and safety
- curriculum design for digital readiness

e. Quality, safety and evidence-based practice

This theme focuses on the role of healthcare education in promoting quality, safety and evidence-informed practice. We welcome submissions that examine how educational approaches can strengthen improvement cultures, support patient safety and develop the knowledge and skills

needed to use evidence well. Contributions may also highlight strategies for embedding quality improvement and critical appraisal within teaching, learning and practice.

We welcome abstracts on topics including, but not limited to:

- quality improvement in education and practice
- patient safety and cultures of continuous improvement
- teaching evidence-based practice
- developing critical appraisal and decision-making skills

4. Session types

For the 2026 conference, presenters are welcome to submit abstracts relating to the following session types:

- Oral presentations for themed sessions
- Posters.

All session types should relate to one of the conference themes listed above.

All presenters and co-presenters will be expected to register for the conference in order to deliver their session and be active participants in the conference.

All submissions must:

- be clearly written in English and demonstrate academic rigour and scholarship;
- be relevant to the selected sub-theme;
- adhere to assigned word limits;
- include clear implications for healthcare education tomorrow;
- address the interests of an international, multidisciplinary healthcare audience;
- be free from jargon or 'shorthand' and any abbreviations should be spelled out in full;
- include full references, using the Harvard referencing style (excluded from word limits).

Submissions will be reviewed against the following criteria:

- demonstration of academic rigour and scholarship;
- relevance to the selected theme;
- evidence of understanding current issues and relevant debates;
- transferability to a variety of settings and healthcare professions;
- inclusion of clear implications for healthcare education tomorrow; and
- addressing the interests of an international, multidisciplinary healthcare audience.

a. Oral presentations for themed sessions

Themed sessions are designed to allow a meaningful and in-depth discussion around one of the conference's themes. Your presentation will be no more than 15 minutes in length to leave 5 mins for Q&A. Your presentation will be grouped alongside 3 or 4 other similarly themed presentations. All themed sessions will be chaired by an experienced convenor who will facilitate the session, including overseeing the timings. All presenters should be prepared to remain in the session for the full duration and answer questions from delegates.

Submissions for oral presentations should relate to either **research studies** or **innovation projects** undertaken or in progress at your institution.

Research studies should focus on the education of healthcare professionals and have implications for learning, teaching or assessment. This is an opportunity to present a fully completed study, a completed phase of a study or a systematic review. Submissions should acknowledge the international relevance of the research and its impact on healthcare education practice in higher

education (HE). A study, or phase of a study, must be complete with the data available and analysed by the time of presentation at the beginning of December 2026.

Innovation projects are an opportunity to present educational innovations/developments that have been implemented in one or a small number of sites and their contribution and value evaluated. These presentations are intended to trigger debate about how small-scale innovations may be useful in other settings. They may include reports of innovations in clinical practice, together with the implications for educational development and change.

b. Posters

Posters must address topical and innovative issues relating to the future of healthcare education. They allow you to present preliminary findings of a project/study that may not yet be complete. They may include reports of clinical practice developments, provided they include implications for educational development and change.

Posters will be added to our Event App in advance of the conference to encourage early viewing with time set aside on the day of the conference to informally talk and engage in discussion with delegates; they do not need to include a formal presentation.

5. Important information

Please note, if your abstract is accepted for the conference, you and any co-presenters will be expected to register as **paying delegates** for the conference. Presenters will be provided with a 10% presenter discount code provided the booking is completed by the deadline.

The conference takes place on 2 December 2026. Please ensure that you are available to attend the conference for the full day.

Co-presenters and responsibilities

Please include all co-presenters on the submission form. Please note:

- **All presenters** listed on the form should attend the conference if the session is accepted, and each will be expected to register for the conference.
- If your session is accepted for the conference, **lead presenters** are required to **confirm that they accept** the offer to present. Please ensure that you have agreed with your department or line manager that funding (if required) for your place at the conference is available, **before** confirming your acceptance.
- It is the responsibility of the **lead presenter** to pass on all relevant details to any co-presenters, as correspondence in the first instance will be sent to the lead presenter only.
- It is the responsibility of the **lead presenter** to inform Advance HE at the earliest opportunity of any changes to the session title or content, or of any circumstances that prevent presenters attending the conference that could lead to the session being withdrawn.
- It is the responsibility of the **lead presenter** to submit all presentations and resources to the conference team.

Materials and handouts

We encourage presenters to provide further information and resources during sessions, these can be added as resources accessible to all before during and after the conference and shared via web links or QR codes.

Attendee numbers

As there is no requirement for delegates to sign up to specific sessions at the conference, we are unable to guarantee audience numbers at any session.

Accessibility

We will provide presenters with clear Advance HE guidance on the accessibility of presentations, and it is expected that all presenters adhere to this guidance and ensure that any presentations and virtual resources meet them.

Contact us

If you have any queries about the conference, please contact events@advance-he.ac.uk