



Suicide Prevention & Implementation Research Initiative
South Asia Implementation Research Fellowship in Mental Health

Table of Contents

Suicide Prevention & Implementation Research Initiative	1
What is SPIRIT?	3
What is the South Asia Implementation Research Fellowship in Mental Health?.....	3
What are the aims of the fellowship?.....	3
How is the fellowship structured?	4
Who is eligible to apply for the fellowship?	5
What is expected of the fellows?	5
What are the costs associated with being a fellow?	5
What kind of readings and assignments will fellows do?	6
What kind of information is covered in lectures?	6
Who are the instructors and mentors of the fellowship?	6
How do I apply?	6

The Suicide Prevention & Implementation Research Initiative (SPIRIT) is currently accepting applications for a one-year research fellowship in implementation science in mental health care in India.

What is SPIRIT?

SPIRIT is a research partnership that aims to bridge the gap between scientific evidence and practice in suicide prevention and mental health interventions in India and Bangladesh. SPIRIT will be implemented by the Indian Law Society, Pune, India; in collaboration with Trimbos Institute, Netherlands; Sneha Suicide Prevention Centre, Chennai, India; Gujarat Institute for Mental Health & Hospital for Mental Health, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India; and the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs, Bangladesh. The project is supported by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Gujarat, and funded by the National Institute of Mental Health in the United States. The project has received approval from the Health Ministry Screening Committee of the Government of India.

SPIRIT aims to address this gap by researching the implementation process of an integrated suicide prevention intervention in a community setting at scale. It aims to reduce suicidal ideation among targeted adolescents, rate of suicides in the intervention villages in Mahesana District of Gujarat, and build capacity of health workers in suicide prevention measures. The fellowship also aims to empower regional policy makers in Gujarat to integrate evidence from the implementation of an intervention focused on preventing.

What is the South Asia Implementation Research Fellowship in Mental Health?

The South Asia Implementation Research Fellowship in Mental Health aims to increase the knowledge and skills of researchers from India and Bangladesh in implementation science in order to improve the implementation and sustainability of changes in health care delivery.

What are the aims of the fellowship?

The fellowship aims to:

- ✧ Strengthen regional research capacity in implementation science through training future implementation researchers from Bangladesh and India.
- ✧ Equip fellows with the skills needed to develop and carry out implementation studies in the future, analyze data from an integrated multi-intervention study, document and disseminate research findings, and participate in other research studies.

After this program, the fellow will:

- ✧ Have the skills to critically appraise evidence-based practices in mental health care;
- ✧ Have a good overview of the implementation science literature; particularly in low and middle-income countries and in mental health care;
- ✧ Have an overview of implementation science in healthcare, including key concepts, theories, strategies, research methods, and research findings; and
- ✧ Be able to develop and describe a scientifically-based plan for development, evaluation, and scale-up of an implementation program.

How is the fellowship structured?

The year-long fellowship will require about 25 hours a month of each fellow's time. It can be scheduled flexibly around the fellow's employment situation. The fellowship includes:

- ✧ Online lectures and assignments once or twice a month (1-2 hours a month)
- ✧ Monthly reading assignments (6-10 hours a month)
- ✧ Mentoring sessions and assignments (6-10 hours a month)
- ✧ Intensive residential study visits to the Mehesana District (three weeks/120 hours total)

The didactic component of the fellowship will be structured through interactive lectures (online and in-person), assignments, readings, case studies, and reflection sessions. A residential session is required, which includes on-site learning and research as part of SPIRIT's scale-up study in the Mehesana district. The residential session of three weeks is to be into one two-week segment and one one-week segment to allow for the part-time fellows to manage their employment as well as demands of the fellowship. Mentorship and the practical application of skills will be done through online or telephone guidance to ensure that the knowledge and skills obtained through the didactic training component and experiential learning components can be consolidated and sustained over time.

Who is eligible to apply for the fellowship?

We invite applications from healthcare providers, public health professionals, and researchers from India or Bangladesh who wish to develop an in-depth knowledge of implementation science. A clinical degree or Masters degree from one of the following fields is required:

- ✧ Public health
- ✧ Nursing
- ✧ Psychology
- ✧ Health science
- ✧ Social work
- ✧ Health policy
- ✧ Law (with a concentration in health)

Preference will be given to candidates who have not yet completed their doctoral studies.

What is expected of the fellows?

Fellows are expected to:

- ✧ Attend online or in-person lectures once or twice a month
- ✧ Complete writing and group assignments
- ✧ Meet with their mentor remotely (online) on a monthly basis
- ✧ Complete the assigned readings
- ✧ Complete quizzes and other assessments of skills
- ✧ Participate in the residential study visit to Mehesana, Gujarat
- ✧ Develop and implement research question to be studied during the residential study visit
- ✧ Complete an online assessment in implementation science for the award of a certificate of completion of the fellowship

What are the costs associated with being a fellow?

The fellowship is offered free of charge. However, fellows are required to participate in three weeks of study visit to the Mehesana district, which will be funded by the fellow. The SPIRIT team can assist with providing information about logistics related to cost. Fellows are encouraged to look for additional funding from employers or other sources.

As well, fellows are expected to attend online lectures and Skype/phone meetings with their mentors; this requires a high-speed internet connection.

What kind of readings and assignments will fellows do?

Fellows will read two to five academic journal articles or book chapters each month. These readings focus on the practical skills needed to conduct implementation science studies, as well as on the theoretical background of implementation science. Assignments will focus on the readings, lectures, and on the development of the research plan.

What kind of information is covered in lectures?

Lectures will include information on:

- ✧ Implementation science frameworks
- ✧ Developing implementation science research questions and proposals
- ✧ Research study designs
- ✧ Qualitative research methods
- ✧ Quantitative research methods
- ✧ Economic evaluation methods

Who are the instructors and mentors of the fellowship?

The instructors and mentors of the fellowship include implementation scientists, health policy professionals, health economists, qualitative and quantitative health services researchers, and clinicians. The instructors and mentors come from institutions in the Netherlands, Germany, Bangladesh, and India.

How do I apply?

All applicants are required to submit a 400 word application essay, which should include information about:

- Their educational and employment background
- Their prior research experience
- What the applicant hopes to learn as a participant in the fellowship
- How the knowledge and experience gained through participation in the fellowship will enhance their career

Applications should also include a CV (PDF format), two reference letters and, if applicable, a statement of support from their current employers.

Applications can be sent by email to spiritchlp@gmail.com with subject line 'Application for SPIRIT Implementation Research Fellow' by 15 January'19.