

## Narrative CV Guide

The NIHR have recently introduced **narrative CVs** as part of their application process for career development funding – and as part of the wider NIHR infrastructure, NIHR ARC East Midlands will now also be adopting this as part of our career development awards.

This document is intended to provide guidance on what to include in a narrative CV. The template is intended to provide **a flexible framework** that allows you to **showcase** relevant skills and experience to support your application, and demonstrate your ability to successfully deliver the proposed work. The template contains five sections.

1. Contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies, or knowledge.
2. Contributions to the development of others and maintenance of effective working relationships.
3. Contributions to the wider research and innovation community.
4. Contributions to broader society.
5. Your suitability for the award

How you describe (or narrate) your relevant skills and experience will differ depending on the opportunity to which you are applying – and so each time you use a narrative CV, it will need to be edited for contextual suitability. You should describe a selection of past contributions that best evidence your ability to carry out the proposed activity that you are applying for. It may be that, depending on your career stage / the level of award you are applying for, you're not able to write much in some sections. In such instances, please just explain that you don't yet have this type of experience.

The word limit for your narrative CV is **1,500 words**. Within this word count, you can include as much information as you like within each module.

### *0. About you*

You will need to include basic information about yourself – such as your name, contact details, educational attainment, and employment history.

### *1. Contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies or knowledge*

In this section of a narrative CV, you should describe how you have contributed to the generation of new ideas and hypotheses. Which key skills did you use? How did you communicate your ideas to develop ideas and test these hypotheses? If these have led to any publications, please include the DOIs.

### *2. Contributions to the development of others and maintenance of effective working relationships*

In this section of the narrative CV, you may wish to include experiences from project management or mentoring, or how you have contributed to the success of a team. You could

tell us about how you have established research collaborations or how you have demonstrated leadership in shaping the direction of a piece of work.

### *3. Contributions to the wider research community*

In this section of the narrative CV, you should highlight activities that you have engaged in to support the wider research community. This might be through committee memberships, editing and reviewing outputs for others (peer review), or contributions to others' research projects. You could also highlight contributions to increasing research integrity and improving research culture (inclusion, gender equality, diversity, development of other researchers).

### *4. Contributions to broader society*

In this section of the narrative CV, you should provide examples of your societal engagement and knowledge mobilisation activities. How have you engaged with patients and the public and service users, with industry/ across private sectors, and across public sectors in shaping your research to date? Make sure you also describe how you have ensured that research reaches and influences relevant audiences (this is what is meant by knowledge mobilisation) e.g. contribution to policy development or public understanding, and other impacts across policy, practice and business.

### *5. Your suitability for the award*

In this last section of the narrative CV, you should use the space to tell those assessing your application why they should support you. Tell them about the research career that you would like to develop or that you are developing, and how the experiences described above have supported this career aspiration.

A personal career development award should provide you with a step change in your career trajectory. Please describe the potential impact of this award on your career and how it will support your stated aspirations.