

# Versus Arthritis MSK Champion Frequently Asked Questions

## Who is eligible to apply?

We are looking for individuals who are involved in the design, commissioning and/or delivery of musculoskeletal care, these could be the following professions:

- Clinician (including but not exclusively an AHP, Nurse, GP, Pharmacist, Rheumatologist)
- Public health practitioner
- Commissioner or Service Manager.

In order to have breadth of experience the cohorts of Champions will be multidisciplinary and diverse, instead of hierarchical position, we will focus on potential to lead, adapt to change and deliver impact.

Champions need to have a permanent/fixed-term post for the duration of the programme.

## Who are Ashridge Executive Education?

The bespoke programme will be delivered in partnership with Internationally renowned Ashridge Executive Education, part of Hult International Business School.

Ashridge has contributed to the success of thousands of individuals, teams, and organizations by helping to develop their leadership capabilities with over 1,000 clients across 40 countries.

Ashridge have worked on similar leadership development programmes with Diabetes UK and have several not for profit and health sector clients.

## Where is Ashridge Executive Education business school?

Ashridge business school is located in Hertfordshire:

Hult Executive Education, Ashridge House, Berkhamsted, HP4 1NS

Accommodation is provided onsite at Ashridge and accommodation is fully subsidised.

For more information about Ashridge please visit their website: <http://www.hult.edu/en/executive-education/locations/ashridge/>

## How does the partnership with Ashridge work?

The Champions will be working in partnership with Ashridge Executive Education and Versus Arthritis.

This partnership brings together a unique combination of insight and skills; expertise in leadership development, an in depth understanding of local healthcare systems, support from Versus Arthritis, Patient Insight Partners and experienced mentors.

## How much does it cost to do the programme?

This is a voluntary role but all travel and subsistence expenses (in line with Versus Arthritis' expenses policy) will be reimbursed. All of the training costs associated with the programme including overnight accommodation at Ashridge house and meals are paid for.

In order to support accessibility and inclusion to the programme, additional financial support in the form of a bursary may be considered and assessed on a case by case basis.

Please contact us at: [champions@versusarthritis.org](mailto:champions@versusarthritis.org) to discuss in more detail if you think you may need additional support to ensure this programme is accessible.

## What are Action Learning Sets?

Action learning sets are online peer learning opportunities, enabling Champions to troubleshoot and work collectively to identify solutions. The learning sets are attended by small groups of 4-6 Champions and are facilitated by experts at Ashridge Executive Education business school.

## How will the Champions be assessed?

In addition to the residential sessions, Champions will also be expected to complete self-directed learning, reflect on their progress and communicate the impact and outcomes of their service improvement programme to Versus Arthritis at regular intervals.

## How will the Champions be awarded?

In addition to CPD hours, after completion of the programme, participants to pursue a 'Certificate of Application' to evidence their work.

## What is an executive sponsor?

An executive sponsor is a senior member from your organisation (for example a Head or Director) who fully supports your application to become an MSK Champion, to complete the training and self-directed study associated with the programme.

On your application form you must name an executive sponsor from your employing organisation who will support your application and if you're successful provide a statement of endorsement for you to undertake the role.

## What are you looking for in terms of the service improvement project?

In 2018, we received a breadth of service improvement ideas including developing self-management toolkits scaling up physical activity interventions, improving patient pathways and influencing MSK education programmes.

The programme at Ashridge business school will support Champions to develop and refine their service improvement idea, therefore we don't require a detailed project plan at the application stage. Instead we're looking for a service improvement idea that demonstrates innovative thinking, is a programme of work that you can realistically influence and will improve the quality of lives for people affected by MSK conditions.

## What happens after the programme?

Champions will join an alumni network to continue to work together, to develop, influence and improve MSK health care. We expect you to keep in regular contact with Versus Arthritis and support future cohorts of MSK Champions.

We expect Champions to continue to develop their service improvement project after the programme ends and share the impact of their service improvement project with Versus Arthritis and the wider MSK community.

We expect Champions to work with Versus Arthritis to discuss the scalability of their service improvement project and to potentially support the implementation of their project in other areas.

## How do I apply?

Apply via grant tracker- <https://gt.versusarthritis.org/Login>

You need to register an account and the application form (titled “MSK Champions application form”) will be live from **30 March 2020**.

If you have any questions or queries or would like further information about the programme please email: [champions@versusarthritis.org](mailto:champions@versusarthritis.org)

## Who can I contact to find out more?

- Email [champions@versusarthritis.org](mailto:champions@versusarthritis.org)
- Speak to James Dunphy or Sophie Parslow