

## SECOND GACD IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE MASTERCLASS 2025

# Information for applicants



“The GACD Masterclass is the perfect opportunity for you to get hands-on training in the latest implementation science and scale up methodology. Through experiential learning, you will develop and refine skills that you can use to make a real difference in the world.”

**Morven Roberts**, Chief Executive of GACD

Are you an implementation researcher or programme implementer ready take your career to the next level?

By participating in this intensive, cutting-edge programme, you will learn from leading experts in the field, build your confidence and leadership, and work on real-world projects with other passionate change-makers.

The registration fee for the Masterclass and accommodation and meals for the in-person sessions will be funded by GACD for all successful applicants. Successful applicants must secure their own funding for national and international travel to Goa, India, for the in-person sessions.

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## 1. Overview

The GACD Masterclass develops capacity among mid-career implementation scientists and programme implementers in the methodology and science of scaling up NCD programmes, policies, and interventions. The Masterclass uses experiential learning through the development and refinement of a project concept. The content level is appropriate for mid-career researchers with at least a foundational understanding of implementation science.

The overall aim is to empower participants to bridge the gap between evidence-based interventions and implementation at scale by mastering the principles and methodologies of implementation science and scale up research, enabling them to drive meaningful change and improve NCD outcomes in diverse organisational, community, and national settings.

*Note: The aim of the Masterclass is not to coach participants in writing a grant application to GACD (or any other specified funding opportunity).*

## 2. Eligibility criteria

All teaching and instruction will be delivered in English. Applicants should be proficient in English in order to take full advantage of the programme.

In addition, each applicant must fulfil ALL the eligibility criteria:

- A researcher with 5+ years of research experience.
- Sound foundation in the principles and application of implementation science and/or experience of scaling up programmes or interventions.
- Has a concept for an implementation science project targeting scale up/out of a NCD programme, policy, or intervention in a low- or middle-income country or with an underserved population in a high-income country.
- Has the support of their head of department, supervisor, team leader, or line manager to participate fully in the Masterclass, with full understanding of the time commitment.
- Agrees to [open science fair principles](#) and to share progress of project concept development with other participants during the Masterclass.

## 3. Application process

To apply for the GACD Masterclass, each applicant must complete the online application form:

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/GACD-Masterclass-2025](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GACD-Masterclass-2025)

For reference, the following information is requested:

Part 1: About the applicant	Part 2: Suitability and time commitment	Part 3: Your project concept
Name	Applicant statement*	Statement of the programme, policy, or intervention you seek to scale up/out*
Institution	Applicant implementation experience*	Target disease(s) or condition(s)
Country of institution	Confirmation of time commitment	Target population(s)
Job title	Confirmation of support from your head of department, supervisor, team leader, or line manager	Project concept summary*
Email address		Prospective stakeholder groups
GACD project connection	Letter of support from your head of department, supervisor, team leader, or line manager	How the Masterclass will help you to develop your project concept*
Home country (if different to institution country)	Consent to fair science principles	

**⚠ IMPORTANT**

\* = questions have a limit of 300 words. Please ensure your answer is below the word limit stated in the application form. **Any words above the limit will be removed before your application is reviewed by the selection committee.**

The deadline for applications is **Wednesday 31 July 2024 at 08:00 UTC**. UTC = Universal Coordinated Time. Please see [www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com) to convert to your local time.

All complete applications submitted on time will be reviewed by the selection committee.

### Scoring criteria

The following criteria are used by the selection committee to inform their scores of each application:

- Applicant's commitment to, and motivation for, implementation research and/or scale up.
- Applicant's previous theoretical and practical experience of implementation science and/or scale up.
- Robust team or institutional support for the applicant to attend the Masterclass.
- A project concept that demonstrates a sound foundation in implementation science principles, a clear research question and objectives, innovative approaches to tackling NCD challenges, and potential for significant impact on public health.
- Evidence of intention and a supportive environment for action beyond the Masterclass training period (e.g., developing the project concept into a full grant proposal, meeting with local policymakers, etc).
- The potential for the applicant to benefit from the Masterclass.

### Score description

- 4 (excellent): Outstanding level of quality in response; no significant weaknesses.
- 3 (good): High quality response; minimal weaknesses.
- 2 (satisfactory): Acceptable level of quality in response; some weaknesses, but correctable.
- 1 (poor): Fails to provide the minimum necessary information.

## 4. Cost to trainees

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Participation in the Masterclass is offered at no cost to successful applicants.

In addition, GACD will cover the following:

- Accommodation at the **International Centre Goa** (see [Section 6](#)) for three nights on Tuesday 1st, Wednesday 2nd, and Thursday 3rd April 2025, which includes breakfasts.
- Light refreshments in the afternoon and a welcome reception in the evening on Tuesday 1st April 2025.
- Lunches and light refreshments during programme breaks on Wednesday 2nd, Thursday 3rd, and Friday 4th April 2025.
- A special group dinner in the evening (optional) on Thursday 3rd April 2025.

**⚠ IMPORTANT**

**To attend the in-person sessions, applicants must cover their own costs for travel, travel insurance, additional nights of accommodation, and any other expenses not noted above.**

**Bursary opportunities**

The GACD team are exploring and collating external funding opportunities, including bursaries and scholarships, that you might find helpful. It is important to note that these opportunities are **not** offered by GACD and are completely independent. If you are interested in applying for any of them, you will need to do so directly on your own.

We will update this section and the GACD website in due course; however, this should not restrict trainees seeking out their own opportunities for travel bursaries.

**5. Overview of session dates**

Successful applicants are expected to attend **ALL** sessions. See [Section 8](#) for more details.

All live sessions are ‘synchronous’, meaning instructors and trainees gather at the same time and (virtual or physical) place and interact in real-time.

- The online sessions will be delivered via Zoom.
- The in-person sessions will take place at the International Centre Goa, India.

Date	Theme	Delivery mode	Duration
Tuesday 4 February 2025	<b>Session 1:</b> Introduction to scale up	Online via Zoom	90 minutes
Tuesday 11 February 2025	<b>Session 2:</b> The people and politics of scale up	Online via Zoom	90 minutes
Tuesday 18 February 2025	<b>Session 3:</b> Frameworks for scale up	Online via Zoom	90 minutes
Tuesday 25 February 2025	<b>Session 4:</b> Context and strategies for scale up	Online via Zoom	90 minutes
Tuesday 1 April 2025	<b>Session 5:</b> Personal objectives	In-person in Goa, India	Half day (afternoon)
Wednesday 2 April 2025	<b>Session 6:</b> Theme to be announced	In-person in Goa, India	Full day
Thursday 3 April 2025	<b>Session 7:</b> Theme to be announced	In-person in Goa, India	Full day
Friday 4 April 2025	<b>Session 8:</b> Scale up showcase	In-person in Goa, India	Full day
Tuesday 13 May 2025	<b>Reunion</b>	Online via Zoom	90 minutes

**6. Location of in-person sessions**

The in-person sessions will take place at the **International Centre Goa, India**.

**Website:** [The International Centre Goa](#)

**Address:** Dr. E Borges Road, Dona Paula, Goa – 403 004, India

**Reception:** +91-8308929300 (24 hrs/7) / +91-7066088020

**Distance from the International Centre Goa to:**

- Dabolim Airport: 29 km
- Karmali Railway Station: 20 km
- Goa University: 1 km
- National Institute of Oceanography (NIO): 2.5 km
- Goa Medical College (GMC): 5 km

- Manipal Hospital: 1.5 km
- Miramar Beach: 5 km
- Dona Paula Jetty: 3 km
- Panjim City: 7.5 km
- Mopa Airport: 41 km

**Amenities:**



## 7. Learning objectives

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After completing the Masterclass, trainees will be able to:

1. Compare and contrast how implementation science informs scale up of health interventions and vice versa. Identify and discuss potential tensions or gaps between the two fields.
2. Differentiate between scaling up and scaling out and analyse the implications for different contexts and interventions.
3. Describe the importance of stakeholder engagement, identify key players, and develop meaningful engagement strategies based on their roles and interests.
4. Describe and critically evaluate key frameworks for implementing and evaluating health interventions at scale, identifying their strengths, limitations, and applicability in different contexts.
5. Select, integrate, and justify the use of appropriate frameworks into scale up/out research proposals, demonstrating a deep understanding of their theoretical underpinnings and practical application.
6. Explain the role of, and different approaches to assessing, context when implementing health interventions at scale.
7. Meaningfully contribute to the design, critique, and improvement of effective strategies for implementing health interventions at scale, demonstrating a collaborative and iterative approach.
8. Design and critically appraise a robust plan to evaluate scale up efforts.
9. Appraise ethical considerations for implementing health interventions at scale, considering diverse perspectives and potential trade-offs.
10. Appraise the different skills and knowledge required across a multidisciplinary team to deliver a scale up project.
11. Review and critically analyse proposals for studying the implementation of health interventions at scale, providing constructive feedback and suggestions for improvement.

## 8. Programme summary

All teaching and instruction will be delivered in English. Applicants should be proficient in English in order to take full advantage of the programme.

### Advanced preparation

All Masterclass participants are asked to watch the relevant lecture recordings in advance of the first live session. The lectures are publicly available on the [GACD Implementation Science e-Hub](#) under the **e-Hub Advanced Programme** tab. The lectures are presented by experts in the field of implementation science and scale up. **Please note the e-Hub Advanced Programme content is being reviewed and is subject to change. Any modifications will be in line with the overall aim and scope of the Masterclass.**

### Online sessions

The schedule below give an overview of the anticipated content of online sessions and are subject to change. **Please note the Masterclass content is being reviewed and is subject to change. Any modifications will be in line with the overall aim and scope of the Masterclass.**

All live online sessions are 'synchronous', meaning instructors and trainees gather at the same time and (virtual) place and interact in real-time.

Date and time	Theme	Duration and delivery mode	Live session agenda summary
Tuesday 4 February 2025 11:30–13:00 UTC*	<b>Session 1:</b> Introduction to scale up	90 minutes ONLINE via Zoom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Welcome and introductions</li> <li>▪ Programme overview and introduction to project concept presentations</li> <li>▪ Icebreaker and networking</li> <li>▪ Discussion of Module 1 e-Hub lectures</li> <li>▪ Intro to homework tasks <i>and</i> Close</li> </ul>
Thursday 6 February 2025 11:30–13:00 UTC	<b>Session 2:</b> The people and politics of scale up	90 minutes ONLINE via Zoom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Welcome and catch ups</li> <li>▪ Discussion of Module 2 e-Hub lectures</li> <li>▪ Stakeholder engagement panel Q&amp;A</li> <li>▪ Close</li> </ul>
Tuesday 11 February 2025 11:30–13:00 UTC	<b>Session 3:</b> Frameworks for scale up	90 minutes ONLINE via Zoom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Welcome and catch ups</li> <li>▪ Discussion of Module 3 e-Hub lectures</li> <li>▪ Group activity</li> <li>▪ Close</li> </ul>
Thursday 13 February 2025 11:30–13:00 UTC	<b>Session 4:</b> Context and strategies for scale up	90 minutes ONLINE via Zoom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Welcome</li> <li>▪ Discussion of Module 4 e-Hub lectures</li> <li>▪ In-person session reminders</li> <li>▪ Close</li> </ul>

\*UTC = Universal Coordinated Time. Please see [www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com) to convert to your local time.

A month after the in-person sessions, trainees will be invited to attend an online reunion session.

Tuesday 3 June 2025 11:30–13:00 UTC	<b>Reunion</b>	90 minutes ONLINE via Zoom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Welcome back and check in</li> <li>▪ Group activity</li> <li>▪ Open discussion</li> <li>▪ Close</li> </ul>
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### In-person sessions

The schedules below give an overview of the anticipated content of in-person sessions and are subject to change. **Please note the Masterclass content is being reviewed and is subject to change. Any modifications will be in line with the overall aim and scope of the Masterclass.**

All live in-person sessions are ‘synchronous’, meaning instructors and trainees gather at the same time and (physical) place and interact in real-time.

Date and time	Theme	Duration and delivery mode	Live session agenda summary
Tuesday 1 April 2025 14:00–17:00 local time	<b>Session 5:</b> Personal objectives	Half day IN-PERSON at the International Centre Goa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Registration and refreshments</li> <li>▪ Welcome and introductions</li> <li>▪ Networking and setting personal objectives</li> <li>▪ Seminar A: Review of Homework 1</li> <li>▪ Seminar B: Review of Homework 2</li> <li>▪ Close of day</li> </ul> <p>Evening: Welcome reception (optional)</p>
Wednesday 2 April 2025 09:00–17:00 local time	<b>Session 6:</b> Theme to be announced	Full day IN-PERSON at the International Centre Goa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Welcome and overview of the day</li> <li>▪ Seminar A: From inception to impact – the story of the IMPRESS Project</li> <li>▪ Seminar B: Theme to be announced</li> <li>▪ Seminar C: Ethical considerations in scale up</li> <li>▪ Consolidation time</li> <li>▪ Close of day</li> </ul>
Thursday 3 April 2025 09:00–17:00 local time	<b>Session 7:</b> Theme to be announced	Full day IN-PERSON at the International Centre Goa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Welcome and overview of the day</li> <li>▪ Seminar A: Building the scale up team</li> <li>▪ Seminar B: Theme to be announced</li> <li>▪ Seminar C: Theme to be announced</li> <li>▪ Consolidation time</li> <li>▪ Close of day</li> </ul> <p>Evening: Group dinner (optional)</p>
Friday 4 April 2025 10:00–16:00 local time	<b>Session 8:</b> Scale up showcase	Full day IN-PERSON at the International Centre Goa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Set up for project concept presentations</li> <li>▪ Scale up showcase – part 1</li> <li>▪ Scale up showcase – part 2</li> <li>▪ Formal close of the in-person sessions</li> </ul>

## About the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases

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### Who we are

The Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD) is the first collaboration of major research funding agencies to specifically address chronic, non-communicable diseases. Together, the members of the alliance represent 80% of global public funding for health research.

### Our focus

Implementation science | Non-communicable diseases | Low- and middle-income countries and underserved populations in high-income countries

“Implementation science examines what works, for whom and under what circumstances, and how interventions can be adapted and scaled up in ways that are accessible and equitable.”

~ GACD Strategy Board

### Our mission

To address the growing burden of NCDs in low- and middle-income countries and in underserved groups experiencing health disparities such as Indigenous populations in high-income countries by building evidence to inform national and international NCD policies and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals under section 3.4.

### Our strategic objectives

- Investing in impactful implementation science research.
- Building implementation science capacity and capability in relation to NCDs.
- Facilitating collaborations and partnerships to support GACD impact.

### Connect with us

**Website:** [www.gacd.org](http://www.gacd.org)

**LinkedIn:** [www.linkedin.com/company/global-alliance-for-chronic-diseases](https://www.linkedin.com/company/global-alliance-for-chronic-diseases)

**'X' (formerly Twitter):** [@gacd\\_media](https://twitter.com/gacd_media)

**Email:** [admin@gacd.org](mailto:admin@gacd.org)