

INTRO & AIM

- University of Dundee (UoD) final-year medical students can undertake part-time positions as support workers at Ninewells Hospital within the Acute medical Unit (AMU)
- Responsibility involve routine practical tasks e.g. phlebotomy
- To explore the barriers and enablers experienced by final-year medical students at the UoD regarding part-time employment at the AMU

METHODS

- Qualitative case study approach was adopted
- Nine individual semi-structured interviews with final-year medical students, including both those who took up the role and those expressed interest but did not pursue it
- Reflexive thematic analysis was utilised to decipher the findings

Results

3 themes and 12 sub themes were identified

Enablers

1. Practical experience
2. Financial incentive
3. Flexibility
4. Influence from previous students

Barriers

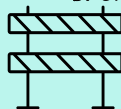
1. Admin difficulties
2. Geographical logistics
3. Healthy work-life balance
4. Unpredictable timetable
5. Shift availability

Changes

1. Admin
2. Communication and clarity
3. Shift live time



"...I needed the money, and it seemed like a good way of mixing money with practical experience..."



"...wanting to prioritise work-life balance more this year and maybe that's why I've not signed up to them as much as I could have."



"...wouldn't mind doing it if the process was more streamlined and was easier for me to actually get on the bank..."

DISCUSSION

- Volume of practical experience exceeded that of traditional placements
- Ability to learn and earn concurrently was a vital enable
- Flexibility allowed for work patterns to accommodate student's education
- Recommendations from seniors significantly influences student's decisions
- Administrative challenges deterred completion of signing up
- Placements outside Dundee hindered ability to work, as did an unpredictable timetable, and desire for a healthy work-life balance
- Demand-supply imbalance, with many students vying for restricted number of shifts
- Students suggested changes to the application process and proposed alternate times for which the shifts become available

CONCLUSION

- Although advantages, such as acquiring practical experience and financial stability exist, students continue to encounter challenges throughout the application process and beyond
- Modifications, including efficient administration and faculty communication, are highlighted
- Future research can look at interviewing AMU staff members, conducting an ethnography of the students during their shifts, or undertaking further interviews with a larger cohort of students

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