



Newcastle University

Implemented Activities

Academic Medicine Conferences

- Our 8th and 9th Annual Academic Medicine Conferences were held. Our 2018 Conference was themed 'Gateway to Research' and 2019 Conference was themed 'Inspire the Next Generation.'
- The 2019 Conference opened on the use of psychedelics to treat psychiatric disease with sponsorship from the Royal College of Psychiatrists.
- Both conferences featured exclusive student-run projects, independent of existing societies, such as the React Magazine, Medisense Educational Platform, which was designed to bring students together over non-traditional research themes.

Research Taster Evening and Workshop Afternoon

- We packaged our historic weekly talk series into a Research Taster Evening and Workshop Afternoon spread across a variety of research topics ranging from Boosting your Academic CV, writing audit and elective applications to critical appraisal.
- Hosting these talks at an earlier time point in the year served to assist student confidence in developing their own applications (in both structure and direction) towards their early career research projects.

Journal Club

- Maintaining our Journal Club series but hosting in a more convenient Wednesday early afternoon slot enabled more students to attend.
- Our commitment to using pre- and post-event feedback forms continues to assist the society in developing more targeted talks throughout the year, serving both to satisfy both the speakers and attenders.

Impacts

Interest in academic research

- A significant increase in the number of pre-clinical students (Biomedical Science, Dental and Medical) identifying an interest in academic research at an earlier time point in their university career. This was supported by an expanded inter-society advertising campaign and an increased roster of available mentors. These students were encouraged to attend our newly formed Research Taster and Workshop Afternoons – serving to display the diversity of research-related options available to students, whilst encouraging purposeful networking between current and prospective researchers.

Inter-society and university collaborations

- Recognition of exciting inter-society and university collaborations, for example, with the undergraduate Newcastle Surgical Society, to significantly boost attendance and networking between students of common interests.

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Student engagement in developing events

- Encouragement of students to actively participate in the development of events, organically throughout the year. Prior to each event, the release of pre-event forms where students can rank their interest in more varied talks – Summer Research Project Advice, Academic Writing, Public Engagement, Research Ethics. Consequentially, students felt more satisfied about attending the event, having had the prior opportunity to identify what they would like out of the talk session.

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