



The University of Edinburgh Medical School

Implemented Activities

The Research Hub:

- This is an online portal that links EEMeC (the Edinburgh Electronic Medical Curriculum, which is the Virtual Learning Environment [VLE] for the undergraduate medical MBChB programme with the University of Edinburgh) with the Edinburgh Research Explorer (which summarises research staff, projects, activities and outputs).

Development of the Research Hub:

- We worked in collaboration with our Learning Technology Section (where EEMeC is managed) and the Research Information System Manager in the Governance and Strategic Planning department (where the Edinburgh Research Explorer is managed) to develop the Research Hub.

Testing of the Research Hub:

- Extensive testing of the Research Hub in summer-autumn 2014 by ourselves, the INSPIRE student representatives, and the lead for Student Selected Components revealed problems with the functionality of the portal, and its interaction with the two databases it links.

Dissemination of Information about the Research Hub:

- We wrote to all academic staff with instructions about how to populate the portal with research projects.

Survey of Student use of the Research Hub:

- Online survey within EEMeC for one week.

Impacts

Student Engagement:

- The scheme has promoted undergraduate student engagement in research by creating an online portal (called the 'Research Hub') that links EEMeC (the Edinburgh Electronic Medical Curriculum, which is the Virtual Learning Environment [VLE] for the undergraduate medical MBChB programme with the University of Edinburgh) with the Edinburgh Research Explorer (which summarises research staff, projects, activities and outputs).

Accessibility:

- The school has promoted the accessibility of research to undergraduate medical students by generating a user-friendly, bank of potential projects and supervisors that is dynamically updated as projects are added and removed.

INSPIRE is coordinated by the Academy of Medical Sciences and supported by the Wellcome Trust. INSPIRE activities are designed and delivered locally by individual medical schools.

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Increasing Opportunities:

- The School has increased the opportunities in research for undergraduates by encouraging University of Edinburgh staff to provide projects for this portal and students to use it.

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