

Evaluation of the Mid-Wessex Day Release Course

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The aim of the research project was to document, review and evaluate the approach to teaching and learning used on the course

The project focused on four main areas and posed the following questions of each:

Technical – How is the course structured and delivered? How is time used? The identification of points of good educational practice.

Need – What are the needs of GPRs, and does the course meet them?

Philosophy – Do the course aims and objectives match registrar experience?

Development – To identify opportunities for change, if appropriate, based upon the findings.

Method

A qualitative evaluation framework was chosen as the emphasis of the research was on describing the teaching and learning processes. Four methods of data collection were used: observation of all contact time, interviews (Course Organisers, GPRs), questionnaires (GPRs, Invited Speakers) and information contained in course documentation.

Conclusions

The research project clearly indicated that registrars undergo change during the year and that the course supported this change. The findings of the project raised broader questions about the nature of registrar education, how it meets the challenge of supporting change, and its relationship to professional qualification.

Publication

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Findings

Technical outcomes: insight was gained into the way the formal, 'taught' aspect of the course functioned, and whether it permitted the opportunity for 'deep learning.' The interaction pattern between the session leader and the registrars was key in doing this.

Need outcomes: the analysis of the data demonstrated that the registrars' perceptions of their educational need changed over the year, and that the curriculum was found to meet their needs when considered retrospectively.

Philosophy outcomes: the data indicated that the principles and philosophy underpinning the course were mirrored in the content and method, and that the objectives of the course were largely fulfilled by the registrars on completing it.

Course development outcomes: the evaluation of the MWDRC identified four areas for potential development.