

RGPAS Conference 2016: Student Feedback



Once again, this year we offered 15 students a scholarship in order to attend our annual conference. However due to a much higher number of delegate registrations, along with a higher number of Inverness-based students (who were not requiring accommodation), we enabled 19 students to attend without any cost to themselves – including this year a complementary ticket to our conference dinner. 10 responses have been received to our feedback survey. The results are presented below.

Which university are you from?

Aberdeen 1

Dundee 2

Edinburgh 0

Glasgow 6

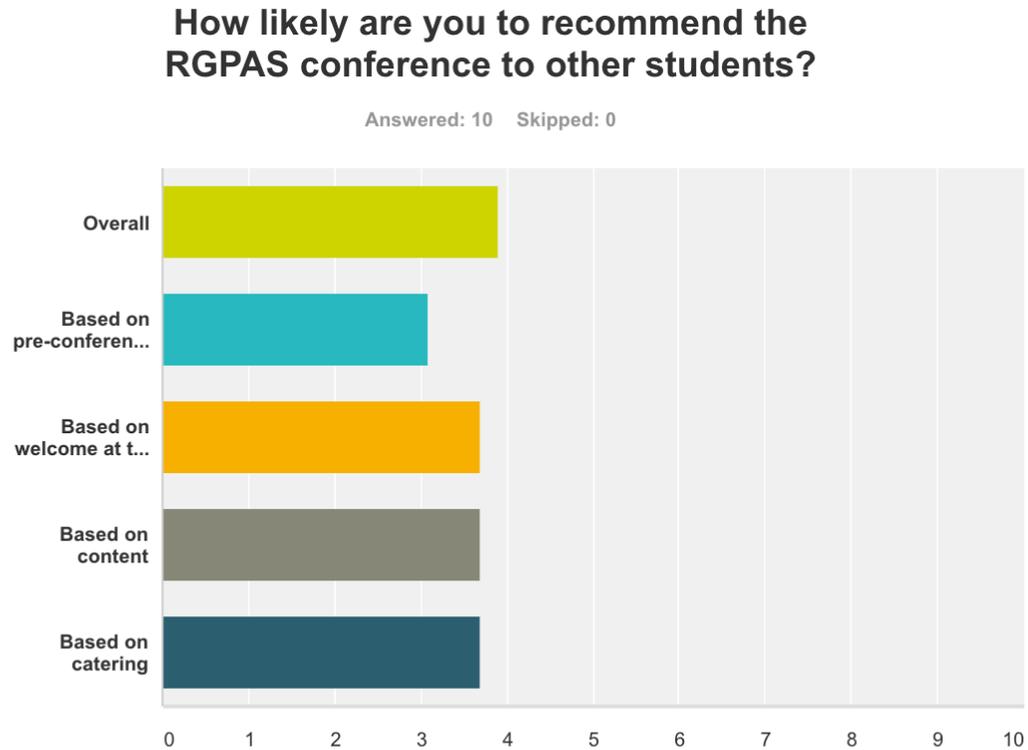
Hull & York Medical School (by special agreement) 1

What is your age?

All respondents were in the 18-24 age range.

How likely are you to recommend the RGPAS conference to other students?

**this graph is a bit misleading: 0 is not likely, 4 is very likely. See the table that follows.



	Not likely	(no label)	(no label)	Very likely	Total	Weighted Average
Overall	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	10.00% 1	90.00% 9	10	3.90
Based on pre-conference information	0.00% 0	20.00% 2	50.00% 5	30.00% 3	10	3.10
Based on welcome at the conference	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	30.00% 3	70.00% 7	10	3.70
Based on content	0.00% 0	10.00% 1	10.00% 1	80.00% 8	10	3.70
Based on catering	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	30.00% 3	70.00% 7	10	3.70

What did you particularly like about the conference?

- felt welcomed. content of talks was relevant to a medical student as well as senior doctors

- Felt welcomed by everyone there from the start - with no feel of the hierarchy that is sometimes detrimentally present in student-doctor social engagements. –
- Given a real flavour of the job of a rural GP and increased my understanding of the role, and the variety it can offer. - Personal perspectives of rural GP and career-based advice and conversations felt really useful. - Social side of things was also lots of fun.
- I got a better understanding of what it was like to be a rural GP. I have not seen much rural GP and I really got an idea of what problems and challenges rural GP are met with.
- The conference gave a really good chance to speak to established rural GPs and other trainees, and establish the opportunities available within rural medicine. It was also a great chance to talk to other students with similar interests, who had had similar experiences to myself.
- The talk regarding Orkney GP recruitment and the opportunity to try the EZIO tools.
- I very much enjoyed the warm welcome experienced which made the whole conference more enjoyable. The talks were of a level I feel I could get involved in and think about, so I didn't feel out of my depth.
- Range of speakers' backgrounds (not all GP)
- Very friendly and relaxed environment, thought the talks were interesting (and not too long!) and the location was great
- The helicopter visit was good. The talks on working as a rural medic in foreign countries were interesting.
- Very welcoming, good atmosphere, good to have close exposure to Rural GP's and trainees to gain some real-life experience into their lives. Good selection of presentations. Good emphasis on student involvement

What can we do better next year (for students)?

- not too much! potentially advertise through university/student societies as I only found out about the conference through word of mouth
- Maybe advertise it more widely or centrally through medical schools? We only heard of it coincidentally through word of mouth (but I know places are limited so maybe not).
- Perhaps have a bit of an 'icebreaker' or gathering at the start of the conference for students to meet other, before meeting our GP 'buddy'. I think if I had attended the conference without knowing anyone, I would have been a little daunted at the start, and this would have been a great point to meet other students.
- More time for the clinical case workshops and more pechakucha presentations
- Could have had a pre-conference chat with other students. Like ice-breaker style or something to that effect! However, I did get to know the students over the 2 days but this may have made it go faster.
- Hard to comment as I couldn't make all of the conference, think all the opportunities were ideal.
- Maybe some time to chat before/at the start of the event-- Introduction games/activities are always a bit cheesy but they do relieve some of the awkwardness! It would be great for students to have a chance to get more involved in the society
- The student break-out session could have been longer, I felt like the rural fellows ran out of time and the thing we went to after that about making it easier for GPs to volunteer abroad seemed to be pitched above our level so it might have been good for us to stay in the first session instead.

- Even better advertisement within the different Universities (if you want more students attending that is!). For example at Glasgow, Med-Chir circulate a monthly newsletter often advertising conferences.

If we had £100,000 to spend on enabling more students to experience rural practice, what would you spend it on? Please give up to 3 ideas.

- travel expenses. Personally I don't have a car and feel this limits me in both accessing the rural places but also when I am there it makes you much more reliant on the host GP
- International rural GP placements for students. - Paid accommodation/board for rural GP electives/SSC's maybe - All of the wine
- Give money to student societies to participate in rural GP stuff, bursaries for rural electives
- Encouraging more students to carry out electives/SSCs in rural placements (e.g. though travel/accommodation costs, or supporting rural GPs/hospitals to facilitate the opportunity to host a student). Helping towards the cost of a student-led rural medicine conference. Raising the profile of RGPAS, or Scottish rural medicine further afield (e.g. England/Wales). This may be done by presence at other medical school conferences etc?
- Provide a fund to allow more students to go to remote areas on GP placement
- More SSCs dedicated to rural practice. Undergraduate prizes (e.g. for essays about rural medicine or projects undertaken in rural areas). Travel bursaries for electives (however, I am aware that this is something already in place given by RGPAS).
- More programmes like the Remote and Rural/Longitudinal Clerkship. Access to rural Scotland for students from further away/int'l.
- Organise bursaries to pay for travel and accommodation for rural GP electives-- is the first thing that springs to mind, but there are already a lot of bursaries out there, and £100k is a lot of money. Perhaps organising more conference-like events or clinical skills training days?
- I think just more scholarships to the conference would be the best. Or if you could run a similar conference just pitched at students and do a similar scholarship thing that would be good.
- Greater options for students to spend their 5 week GP block in a rural location (I know there is already an opportunity to do this but more opportunities would be good) Better integration of rural practice into the curriculum would be really interesting, perhaps as part of 2nd or 3rd year or even a half day academic day, as this could spark the interest of students who had not previously considered it. Scholarships for junior and senior electives, as this is something I now wish I had done as my junior elective but this realisation has come too late!

What do you think that RGPAS could do to support university activities to raise awareness of rural general practice?

- We have academic days every 5 weeks in the clinical years where a range of topics are discussed. An hour lecture in one of these would be well received
- Keep making as many rural GP placements available for students as part of GP placements and SSC's - Contributing to GP specialist block curriculum possibly

or influence it in some way? - Intercalated Rural GP year (even as part of a general practice intercalated year which doesn't exist at Glasgow as we discussed)

- I think an information sheet on opportunities to get involved with rural GPs for societies to access easily. Adverts for the conference, contacts for students to see about organising an elective in rural GP,
- Helping support a student led rural medicine conference, or supporting other universities to offer the opportunity to think/experience rural practice. ?video-linked lectures
- I think there should be wider promotion of the event to students, possibly by linking in with the Remote&Rural staff at Inverness to encourage more students to attend, possibly making it a requirement of the course like the pre-hospital care course is. Introduce the idea of rural general practice at the beginning of medical school and replace some of the community course in years 1-3 with real life exposure to rural practice.
- Perhaps a system of sorts to allow those interested in rural medicine to go to a rural practice for a GP block. Could also have information talks to the younger years since we didn't have any mention of it till much later.
- To outreach talks within the universities to lure people in from their host area.
- Perhaps organise events for students (talks, mini conference) either at the universities or at rural general practices- the latter would be great, especially for small groups of students who like the travelling
- I understand Aberdeen and Dundee have year long modules where you can do rural placements but we don't have anything like that in Glasgow. Maybe an intercal degree in rural GP or something would be good.
- Rural medicine society has just been set up, supporting this could be a good way of getting involved and raising awareness. More options available for SSCs and electives as previously mentioned

Any final comments?

- I really enjoyed the conference, thank you very much for organising and encouraging student involvement
- Had a great few days. Thanks a lot for the financial support and invite, and all the effort put in for making it so welcoming and interesting for students.
- Thanks for organising a wonderful conference!
- The conference was an amazing experience. I am so glad to have had the opportunity to meet more rural gps and gain a better understanding of the challenges and rewards of the job. The itinerary was well balanced and as a student I felt included throughout. I have been inspired to undertake an elective in rural medicine and possibly also a career!
- Very good conference, thanks!
- Really great conference, thoroughly enjoyable couple of days. Cheers for all the effort.

RGPAS will present this feedback to others involved with undergraduate teaching, and endeavour to make next year's student experience even better.

David Hogg – RGPAS Chair

19th December 2016