

# RGPAS Conference 2015: Student Feedback

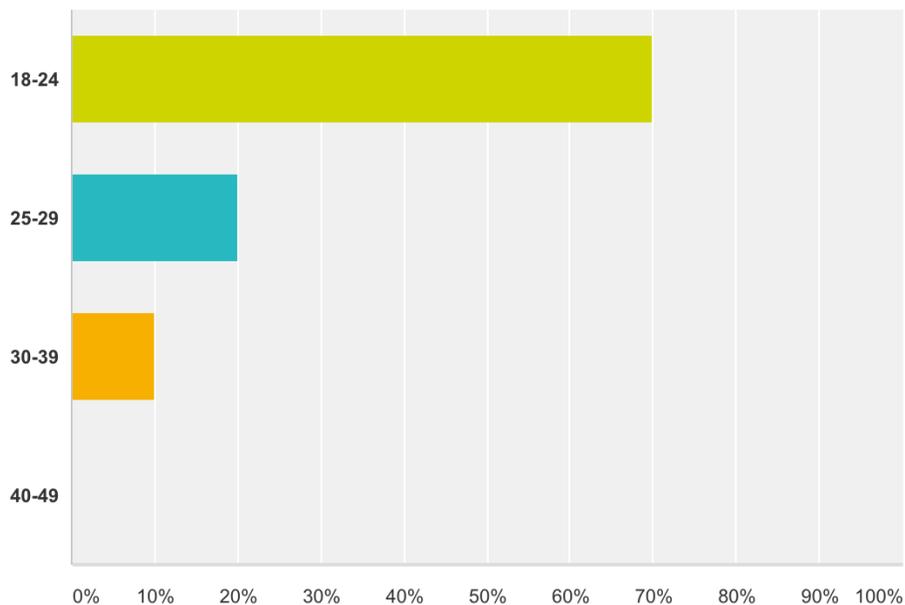


Once again, this year we offered 11 students a scholarship in order to attend our annual conference. 10 responses have been received to our feedback survey. The results are presented below.

## Which university are you from?

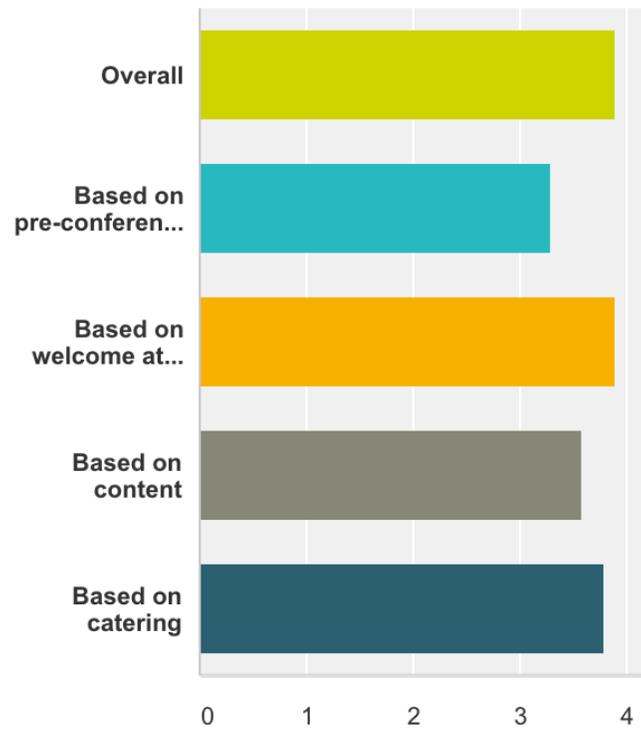
Aberdeen 3  
Dundee 2  
Edinburgh 0  
Glasgow 4  
Kings College London 1

## What is your age?



## 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
Overall	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	10.00% 1	90.00% 9	10
Based on pre-conference information	0.00% 0	10.00% 1	50.00% 5	40.00% 4	10
Based on welcome at conference	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	10.00% 1	90.00% 9	10
Based on content	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	40.00% 4	60.00% 6	10
Based on catering	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	20.00% 2	80.00% 8	10

## What did you particularly like about the conference?

- Provided a good insight into the issues facing rural GPs, and also some useful updates about treatment of conditions
- Friendly atmosphere. Good social events. Enjoyed student involvement with presentations. Talks were of a high standard. Great to get a scholarship.
- Open discussion and debate after a talk buddy system - enabled you immediately to get speaking to the GPs there
- Students were really involved.
- everyone was very welcoming and persuasive about the benefits of becoming a rural GP! lots of interesting lectures and a great opportunity to meet current and future rural GPs and trainees in a relaxed environment.
- Very welcoming atmosphere, excellent food and lots of interesting talks (Coll emergencies in particular)
- Opportunities to network, gain insight into rural practice and also the welcome. Felt very much at home and my opinions were considered as equal! Well done.
- It was good to hear about some of the issues facing rural practice as well as being told the positives. I liked the number of people that were there and that there were students from other universities there. I wasn't aware other universities were involved in encouraging rural practice.
- Everyone was incredibly friendly and there was a strong impression that people were genuinely interested in what we had to say. The level of enthusiasm and passion shown by everyone was truly inspiring.
- How welcoming everyone was from the moment we arrived. It was also clear that everyone was interested in our views about different topics since we will (hopefully!) be the next generation of rural GPs in a few years time.

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

- Maybe separate students and GPs when talking about pensions/practice as these sessions are not relevant to students. We might benefit more from a short 'top 10 presenting complains in rural GP' or something
- Some of the talks were perhaps not wholly relevant to students at present e.g. pensions, contracts and having to speak to reps.
- more interactive / hands on sessions some of the talks didn't feel hugely relevant maybe at this point the student there could have got together for a focused discussion on general practice and what they see themselves doing in the future
- Have 1 day that's more student friendly material, and one day that isn't. So that potential new recruits aren't put off by issues raised.
- not much - better publicity by contacting individually each medical school - so that they publicise early in newsletters/advertise directly to their students, as well as each GP society at individual universities
- A session on "career advice for students wanting to do rural practice" you could give us tips on what jobs would be useful to apply for, advice on the rural fellowships and advice on applying for rural jobs.
- It would be nice to meet the students before hand, possibly ask for consent to add to a fb group or google group or something similar.
- Can't think of anything, I enjoyed it as it was.
- Keep up with what you're already doing.
- Honestly, I can't think of much which would have improved my experience. I genuinely enjoyed every aspect of the conference!

**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.**

- Providing more placements for students!!
- I think that a rural track clinical placements would be beneficial (like rural track FY) where you could do all/majority your clinical placements in rural settings.
- more project opportunities ideally more opportunity for all students to spend time in rural practice
- 1. Get this enthused about rural practice to go and give workshops in each medical school. To every year group 2. Support remote and rural societies initial establishment and ongoing support 3. Enhance access to rural electives by setting up a UK rural electives network
- have a prize for each medical school to fund at minimum attendance at the RGPAS conference (from anywhere in the UK), and at most an elective/placement at a rural practice in Scotland including a contribution towards travel/accommodation costs
- Fully funded rural placement opportunities - the biggest problem students face is money - having a fully funded placement would get around this.
- Accommodation at site for students to come and for their family to join them for a stay if possible. 2. An opportunity to speak to rural practitioners first hand about their experiences and how they still manage the other aspects of their life when living remotely and rurally.
- Hmm... I'm not sure. I'm torn between whether it would be better to give a select few students more experience of rural practice (like at Aberdeen with interviewing the people most likely to go on and actually work R&R... or if it would be better spent giving a more across-the-board access to a larger number of students. Personally the Belford and RGPAS conferences are the only ones I've been to and the fact that they were paid for really made it very attractive to me. That would possibly encourage more people to get involved... Also, I wonder would it be worthwhile considering the potential for a R&R society in the

universities.... The biggest factor for me personally was going on GP placement in Ullapool, which only the R&R students get the chance to do at Aberdeen. Our GP teaching in Year1-3 is pretty awful and this put most of us off general practice. That, and the hospital doctors always saying in their lectures that 'half of you will END UP as GPs' as if it was the less successful option. I think we should have more GP teaching in terms of teaching us about common presentations and so on from a much earlier stage in the curriculum. We only get 'community course' teaching from GPs which are the boring 'what is normality?' tutorials and so on, which although important are very very dragged out and we learn the same things over and over. It's a shame because GPs have so much more that they could have taught us. So I suppose what I'm saying is that for people to become interested in rural practice, they have to experience it. It's not something I'd just have become interested in through my own accord. I wasn't that way inclined before Ullapool, and now I am. That 4 week experience can change everything! So the more people who have that experience, the more rural practitioners there are likely to be (in my simplistic and idealistic mind haha).

- Encourage universities to facilitate students in going on rural placements with financial support. A major barrier for some can be transport and accommodation costs in the event of receiving a rural placement and I know this puts some students off. Currently it seems that demand for remote and rural placements outstrips supply so maximising the availability of placements would be beneficial (one idea mentioned at the conference was a matching system to coordinate the supply and demand for placements; financial and admin support to practices willing to provide placements would also help)
- Enabling more students to attend rural placements during medical school by helping with accommodation costs (eg. BnB on Arran etc) for students who may be put off applying due to the financial cost involved. Scholarships for students to do rural GP-based electives. Scholarships for students to attend rural health conferences (eg. The rural WONCA conference).

## **Any final comments?**

- Great conference, will be attending again and will be recommending it to colleagues. An excellent insight into the world of rural GP.
- Thanks for having me along
- Thanks again for a great few days
- Excellent conference - great people - want to go rural more than ever.
- Thank you for putting together the conference!
- This was a fantastic couple of days and I can't overstate how energised I have been by it. One thought I've had since leaving is that it might be worth opening up the scholarships to the whole of the U.K. (not just Scotland). While many Scottish students will be aware that this type of medicine exists I imagine it would come as news to the majority down south and I'm sure there would be substantial interest. It may be slightly cynical but targeting 4th years and below in England (who are yet to apply for foundation jobs) and attracting them to foundation jobs in Scotland before other circumstances tie them to a location could really expand the pool of potential rural GPs. I know one student down south who was keen to attend but felt they couldn't because of the drop-down list of Scottish unis. The attendance & interest of [those students/doctors who travelled from England] suggest people would be interested.

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 Undergraduate Lead**

**2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015**