GPs at the Deep End

Are you interested in first hand experience of general practice in disadvantaged areas, including prison populations, homelessness and migrants? Would you love to learn from subject experts about the health inequalities facing these populations and those who provide care for them? If so, you're ready for GPs at the Deep End.

GPs at the Deep End was first started in Scotland by Professor Graham Watt and brought together GPs working in practices in the most disadvantaged areas in the country. Since then multiple GPs at the Deep End networks have formed, to give practitioners in the most disadvantaged communities a voice and identity, and lead the way on projects that aimed to mitigate the inverse care law. The group continues to provide peer support, advocacy, training and research opportunities to learn more about general practice in disadvantaged areas. Healthcare increasingly makes a difference to population health, and if this is delivered inequitably, healthcare can widen inequality. One major challenge for healthcare is to find ways of increasing the volume, quality and consistency of care in disadvantaged areas.

GPs at the Deep End Bristol was launched in April 2023 and through this student choice project, we hope to widen medical student interest and participation in the Deep End network, including setting up a Deep End medical student society. For the project, students will spend time in GP practices in areas of Bristol with a high index of multiple deprivation (IMD), experiencing firsthand the challenges faced by these populations and those who provide care to them. A series of seminars will be run by subject experts on topics such as the inverse care law, trauma informed care and migrant health. We plan to arrange visits to experience prison medicine, refugee and asylum seeker care, care for homeless people and other inclusion health groups (including sex workers and those with drug dependency).

Feedback from last year's students:

"A very well run SCP, you will gain many different perspectives on healthcare (and life) and get to work with inspiring people and colleagues"

"Both Simon and Beth were lovely supervisors and extremely involved and easy to talk to with great insight into different communities… a really amazing student choice project."

Part 1: The Deep End in Bristol Weeks 1-3.

Students will be in a GP practice for two days a week. Each week, there will be two seminars on topics relevant to GPs in these areas, supported by focused reading materials and delivered by subject experts. We will provide additional clinical experience in prison medicine, homeless and migrant health. You will have the opportunity to develop community education projects, and there will also be opportunities to become involved with Deep End research and quality improvement projects.

Part 2: Field Trip Week 4

There are multiple opportunities for you to choose from.

1) You can spend a week within the community to understand their healthcare needs and challenges, find ways to prioritise them by working with the GPs at the Deep End Bristol team and write a report about it.

2) You can be placed in community organisations such as Caafi Health to support their population health events, work closely with community leaders and present work to them and wider community on tackling health inequalities.

3) You can work with the Haven (refugee health centre) or focus on prison health or an area of deprivation that appeals to you.

4) You can arrange a field trip to visit another Deep End Network in the UK. Details of this are TBC. Accommodation and travel expenses will be provided.

5) Joining students from the Migration Studies student choice project to visit Care4Calais, a social care charity based around Calais in northern France who provide migrant healthcare (most students chose this option last year)

Part 3: Assignment writing Weeks 5-6

The Deep End project offers a unique opportunity for both academic and experiential learning. Your academic development will cluster around a 3000-word written project. Our team will support you as you learn how to review literature, appraise academic writing and write your own project up. We will propose several themes but remain open to your own project ideas