

## Research and Innovation at PDSE Dental Education: Research in Action

### Impact of community engaged dental education

The Inter-Professional Engagement (IPE) module is delivered in the first two years of the BDS and Dental Hygiene and Therapy programmes as part of the spiral curriculum. It introduces students to community engagement and social accountability through structured experiential learning in community settings.

Students work with a range of community partners to better understand lived experience, oral health inequalities, and the wider social determinants of health. The module encourages reflection on professional roles within wider health and social care systems and the importance of collaborative practice.

A PDSE-funded PhD project is evaluating the impact of the IPE programme on undergraduate students' empathy, social accountability and attitudes towards interprofessional learning.

Findings are informing ongoing curriculum development and helping identify which elements of community-engaged learning most strongly influence student values and professional development, with the aim of supporting a more socially accountable dental workforce.

#### Related publications and outputs:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39696344/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41006865/>

<http://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41339269/>

