

Best Practice Network for Global Health Education

In early 2005 Skillshare International called for institutions and organisations working in global health education to come together and share their experiences. Skillshare International had identified that there was a gap in communication between these different stakeholders, who were working in isolation and unable to share learning. As a result of this initiative, a network was established to bring together academic institutions, NGOs and other organisations working in the field of undergraduate training of health professionals, with the following aims:

1. Share and identify best practice

It showcases existing initiatives, programmes and teaching resources on global health education; identifying and disseminating key components of best practice between existing and new audiences.

2. Inter-professional & inter-institutional work

It opens a channel of communication for inter-professional work in global health education, facilitating communication and dialogue between traditional stakeholders in global health education (medical schools, schools of social care, academic bodies) and non traditional stakeholders (NGOs, advocacy groups). It also supports new projects for curriculum development and implementing courses.

3. Advocacy

It links up with other organisations and institutions advocating for global health education to influence practice and policy for undergraduate education within the health sector. This is necessary to create a community, which recognises the value of further curriculum policy and curriculum development for global health education.¹

"This is an extremely valuable initiative drawing together health, medical and social care professionals to explore the concepts of global dimensions in education and training. There is a great deal which all professional groups can gain from such discussions both in terms of breaking down professional stereotypes and in moving forward the global education agenda. Although as yet this initiative is not funded but relies on personal interest, already it is proving to be a valuable network". Dr. Katy Newell-Jones, Oxford Brookes School of Health and Social Care

¹ The network brings together organisations such as: Higher education institutions (Leicester, UCL, Leeds, Edinburgh, Oxford Brookes); Unions (BMA); Voluntary and community organisations (Medact, MedSIN, Skillshare International, Alammata); Existing networks (NHS links, Oxford Brookes University; Global Dimension Network, International Federation of Occupational Therapists).