

## The University of East Anglia (UEA) is supporting students to prepare for their Clinical and Professional Skills Assessment (CPSA) by hosting peer-led formative mock objective structured clinical examinations (OSCE)

### What was the problem?

UEA delivers a fully integrated clinical course; over five years, students take part in 16 summative OSCEs. Subjective opinion on how to pass an OSCE circulates and UEA have found it a challenge to assess what informal learning is taking place across the university. By working collaboratively with students, the university aims to provide tools to support students in passing OSCEs.

### What did they do?

The university became aware that students wanted to hold mock OSCEs (MOSCE) and since 2015 they have been working with peer groups to provide support to run them.

The MOSCEs are held over weekends throughout the year. The MOSCE is delivered by the student/foundation doctor volunteers (usually four to six per team). The university facilitates:

- team briefings
- delivery date timetabling
- advertising
- advice on designing the OSCE such as number, content and difficulty level of stations and timetabling on the day' assessment centre use and equipment
- maintenance of a database

The volunteers provide feedback to individual students either at the end of each station, or at the end as a group, where they will also be provided with their marksheets and comments.

### Who signs up?

The university requires that the MOSCE is open to all students and provided for free. There is no preferential access, the places are offered on a first come, first served basis, with the option to go on a reserve list if they aren't successful. Around 100 places are offered for each year group across two days, and in 2021 three days of year 5 MOSCE will be available meaning that all students can access a place if they want one. They have a high take up for each cohort and the vast majority on students are allocated a place.

### Evaluation

Feedback from those undertaking the mock OSCE is extremely positive. When asked about their preparation for finals 99% of respondents agreed/strongly agreed with the statement that 'The content of the revisions sessions was appropriate for my revision needs'. Students have also fed back that the course content was appropriate for their stage of training, was realistic and that the feedback given by the volunteer assessors was useful and comprehensive.

**Want to know more?** Email Professor Lesley Bowker at [lesley.bowker@nnuh.nhs.uk](mailto:lesley.bowker@nnuh.nhs.uk)