Medicine – Electronic Professional Development Portfolio

The Medical School introduced an electronic Personal Professional Development (ePDP) framework in 2006 to their bespoke Virtual Learning Environment (EEMeC).

**School/Subject Area:** Medicine

**Target Audience:** All Medical students

**Staff Involved:** Medicine

**Date:** Launched 2006

Key features

Personal and professional development (PPD) was introduced as a compulsory element of the medical curriculum in 1998, underpinned by paper portfolios. The Medical School introduced an electronic Personal Professional Development (ePDP) framework in 2006 to their bespoke Virtual Learning Environment (EEMeC). This aims to help develop reflective and self-directed approaches to the practice and study of medicine, maximising students’ effectiveness and personal satisfaction throughout their professional lives. The process is designed to help students chart the development of professional attributes, such as integrity, compassion, altruism, continuous improvement, excellence and partnership. They keep a record of their generic professional skills from year 1 and are helped in this process by mentors and employers/line managers. In addition to developing professionalism and nurturing the individual’s awareness of their own values/lifestyle and motivators, the portfolio helps develop their career by encouraging reflective self-appraisal, building up a record of achievement and improving students’ ability to articulate this to employers.

Medical students are no keener on reflection than any other group of students, so they initially need a lot of guidance to teach them how to reflect. Students are required to provide anonymous feedback to their peers via EEMeC, so they are also taught how to give constructive criticism.

Two **clear drivers**in getting students engaged with this process have been:

* the assessment element (the reflective elements of the portfolio count towards final degree results and portfolios are used as part of the viva);
* the competency-based application forms which have been introduced as part of the UK Foundation Programme Office recruitment process for Foundation doctors.

Advice

**Do:**

* Take your time designing your portfolio
* Look at other portfolios
* Have good support for students to guide them through the process
* Link some portfolio items to assessment, if possible
* Link portfolios to job opportunities, if possible

**Don’t**:

* Give up – acknowledge the fact that it will take time to bed in.

Key contacts for additional information

[Dr Helen Cameron](mailto:helen.cameron@ed.ac.uk) – Director of Medical Teaching Organisation

[Mrs Karen Simpson](mailto:karen.simpson@ed.ac.uk) – Theme Head for Personal Professional Development

[Mr Michael Begg](mailto:michael.begg@ed.ac.uk) - Learning Technology

To have a look at the Portfolio, see the [EEMec Visitor’s Centre](https://www.eemec.med.ed.ac.uk/visitors/), choose ‘Portfolio’ from the drop-down list of options.

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/employability/staff-information/how-employability-addressed/good-practice/mvm/electronic-professional-development-porfolio>