

Introduction:

- 5-week research placement.
- Supervised by clinical academic consultant Physiotherapist.
- Completed remotely from home, university campus and trust HQ.

Research Placement Opportunities:

- Creation of our own research project.
- Research skill improvements through collecting and analyzing primary data collected from participants' responses to an online questionnaire.
- Development of communication, team-working, networking, and project management skills.

Research Question: 'What are undergraduate AHP students' awareness of research careers?'

Aims: To explore the awareness of pre-registration AHP students on research career options available to them post-graduation. To contribute to the progression of an existing/ongoing study of factors that act as bridges and barriers to facilitating AHP research careers in the UK (A National Survey).

Objectives: To identify from results of a questionnaire, whether AHP students are aware of research career prospects. To identify emergent themes of factors influencing pre-registration AHP students' awareness of research careers across years of study and AHP profession/course (such as Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Podiatry, Operating Department Practice, & Paramedic science).

Research methods – data collection:

- Distributed a pilot questionnaire & responded to feedback on this.
- Distributed final version of questionnaire to students in all cohorts of all 6 AHP courses at the University of Huddersfield (UoH).
- Potential participants were given a week to submit their responses to the questionnaire.
- All responses were recorded and documented anonymously.
- Data was collected from the AHP course teams in order to calculate response rates.
- All qualitative data was analysed using a line-by-line coding and reflexive thematic analysis approach.
- All quantitative data was analysed through accurately calculating response rates.

Ethics: Ethical approval for the conduction of this study was obtained from the University of Huddersfield's School of Human and Health Sciences Ethics Committee, at course level from Dr Alex Benham – BSc Physiotherapy Senior Lecturer & Course Lead.

Inclusion & Exclusion Criteria:

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
Pre-registration AHP students.	Post-registration AHP students/professionals.
Students studying at the UoH.	Non-UoH students.
	Non-AHP students.

Qualitative findings:

- **Likes:** Learning new things, application to practice, the research process.
- **Dislikes:** Time consuming, the research process, reading papers.

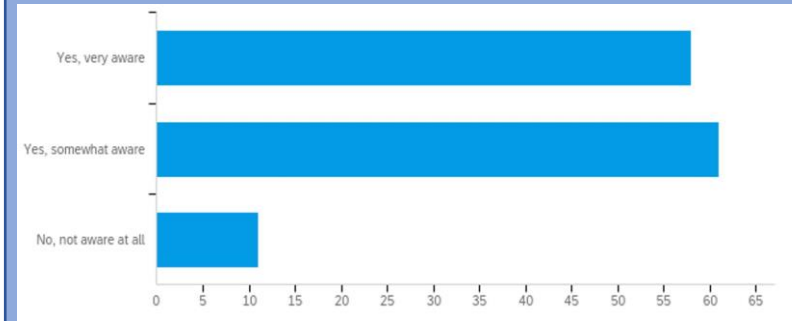
Quantitative findings:

- 58% of participants that expressed an awareness of research-based career routes for AHPs claimed to have heard about these from university.
- 66% of participants reported having had no experience in research prior to undertaking their current pre-registration AHP course.
- 87% of participants expressed a desire for their research skills to improve over the next 5 years, however only 14% of participants reported a definite interest in being involved in research once qualified (mixture of students of different years from 5/6 AHP courses).
- The research career option voted most preferable was working clinically with a bit of involvement in clinical research linked to the workplace.
- 55% of participants expressed a keen interest towards receiving more information about research careers.

Recommendations & opportunities:

- Study could be extended to cover AHP students at other universities - may allow for more AHPs to be encompassed.
- Module evaluations could be conducted to investigate the content covered within AHP courses that is related to AHP research careers.
- Could explore bridges & barriers perceived by students to fulfilling clinical academic careers.

Are you aware that there are other research-based career routes for AHPs?



Would research be something you aspire to be involved in when qualified?

