

THE AWARDS 2021

Widening Participation or Outreach Initiative of the Year

Institution name	Brighton and Sussex Medical School
Submission title or project name	BSMS Virtual Work Experience Programme
Nominee/key personnel	BSMS Widening Participation and Outreach Team
URL	https://bsmsoutreach.thinkific.com/courses/VWE
Submission	<p>Work experience is of great importance to medical school applicants. It can develop and strengthen one's insight into the field and can be reflected upon to demonstrate key skills, values and attributes.</p> <p>Research suggests that work experience opportunities for aspiring medics are governed by social capital (1). Those with informal social networks have traditionally had greater access to clinical work experience. To address this accessibility issue, Brighton and Sussex Medical School have produced an online work experience resource (2). The sector-leading programme introduces the NHS and covers six different medical specialities. It explores the roles that doctors have within those specialities and the specific skills and values required to fulfil such roles. Certification of completion requires submission of a reflective piece of work that is reviewed and approved. To our knowledge, this was the first online platform in the UK for students to gain insights into medicine in this format.</p>