

Science and Technology in Medicine



Research Project Proforma (School of Medicine)

Research Title:	How does OSCE examiners' ability to hold students' performances in episodic memory influence the feedback that they give?
Keywords (up to 5)	Assessor cognition, OSCEs, feedback, memory
Supervisor: Job Title: Department: Email Address: Telephone: Webpage link:	Peter Yeates, Lecturer in Medical Education Research p.yeates@keele.ac.uk
Type of projects offered (delete as appropriate)	Intercalation (1 year)/Studentship (4-8 weeks)/Both

(1) Outline the broad aims of your research and its medical relevance (150 words):

Within medical education, OSCE examiners are known to vary in their judgements. Research has shown that limitations in examiners' ability to manage the amount of information (known as mental workload capacity) contribute to this variability. Examiners focus selectively to help manage their observations, but their recollections of performances show limited accuracy. In order to give feedback, examiners must be able to recall their observations, using what is known as "episodic memory". It is not clear what volume of performance information OSCE examiners can accurately recall; the extent to which biases influence their memories; how these entities influence feedback or explain variability; or

indeed whether examiners perceive memory limitations or employ deliberate strategies in response.

Aim: to understand how OSCE examiners' episodic memory influences feedback or score variability.

(2) Indicate the skills/techniques the student will learn (100 words)

The project can be tailored to the students interests and time commitment (a larger project is possible in a 1 year intercalation than in a 4 week studentship), but may involve stimulated cognitive interviewing, content analysis, qualitative interview and analysis, experimental comparison of the influence of different conditions on a memory-based outcome, statistical analysis of quantitative responses.

Please submit this form electronically to Prof Divya Maitreyi Chari on d.chari@keele.ac.uk by 31 July 2015