



Joint MD/PhD Fellowships Groningen-Oldenburg

Outline PhD Project

Working title of project	Strengthening primary care exposure in medical curricula; a design- based research project
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Promoter/Supervisor UOL	Prof. Dr. Michael Freitag, MPH Department of Health Services Research, Division of General Practice and Family Medicine UOL
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Short Summary of PhD project, incl. research question(s), methods, approx. schedule (incl. times in Groningen/Oldenburg)

The shift of healthcare from hospital setting to primary care is tangible. There is a lack of general practitioners (GPs) in many European countries. Due to an ageing population, a rise in multimorbidity and the trend to provide as much care as possible in the environment of the patient, this disbalance will further grow if not radically more recently qualified doctors choose for GP-specialty-training. It is well-known that exposure to general practice in the curriculum of medical schools is related with the decision to choose GP-specialty-training. Furthermore, input from primary care in medical curricula is very valuable for every future physician: communication, person centeredness, clinical reasoning, multimorbidity, shared decision making and continuity of care. Implementation of primary care education in traditionally hospital-based curricula does not come overnight. There are some positive evaluations of changes in medical curricula with the aim to stimulate primary care exposure. However, it is not known **which design elements are essential when promoting primary care exposure in medical curricula and what helps and hinders the implementation.**



That is why we propose the following **designed-based research** project to develop design elements for the implementation of primary care exposure in medical curricula and study how the implementation could best take place.

The proposed **research trajectory** contains:

1. Scoping review to extract design principles from literature. Search: papers describing implementation of educational interventions promoting primary care exposure in the workplace in medical curricula.

Analysis:

-extracting design principles of the interventions

-extracting stimulating and hindering factors of the implementation on micro, meso and macro level

-qualitative synthesis of findings

2. Analysing implementation of primary care exposure on the workplace in Oldenburg and Groningen and best practices found in the scoping review: in-depth interviews with educational developers focusing on

- a. important design elements in medical education stimulating primary care exposure
- b. stimulating and hindering factors for implementation on micro, meso and macro level
- c. perceived impact on medical students` personal and professional trajectories

3. Presenting the results of step 1 and 2 to stakeholders on micro, meso and macro level in an invitational conference. Interactive process to prioritize and refine the findings, resulting in initial design principles.

4. Development of local intervention(s) in curricula in Oldenburg and Groningen based on the initial design principles

5. Implementation and evaluation of the local interventions, relating results to educational theory

6. Describing design principles grounded in theory and practice, with the goal to make them applicable in various contexts.

The PhD candidate will be supervised by a larger team of researchers from Oldenburg and Groningen. From Oldenburg the multidisciplinary team consists of the division of General Practice in the Department of Health Services Research. In Groningen the research team is embedded in the UMCG research group LEARN, that focusses on research in medical education. PhD students and supervisors meet up regularly, facilitating high quality, internationally recognized, research.



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The supervision team plans to collaborate in a hybrid format and meet once a month with the whole team. Times in Oldenburg/Groningen can be adapted to the candidate's needs and the way the project evolves.

PhD Candidate Profile/desired qualifications

- You are a medical graduate with interest in medical education.
- Your English writing and speaking skills are good.
- You are a good team player
- You are curious about societal changes in healthcare
- You are interested in change management
- Preferably you have already performed qualitative research