

Breaking Down the Interview Barrier - Improving Medical School Interview Preparation for Widening Participation Applicants

Neha Jose,^{1,2} Mairi Docherty,^{1,2} Erin McQuillan,^{1,2} Rebecca Glendell,^{1,2} Katherine Martin,^{1,2} Thivani de Alwis,^{1,2} Holly Wright,^{1,2} Emma Wheeler,^{1,2} Ronen Raduzky,^{1,2} Callum Williams^{1,2}

¹Medic Insight Glasgow, Glasgow, UK; ²School of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK

Introduction

- Medic Insight Glasgow is a medical student-led organisation providing advice and support to aspiring medical students and promoting widening participation (WP).
- The Interview Preparation Events involved a hybrid in-person/online format to support individuals applying to medical school.
- This hybrid format of events aimed to promote accessibility and increase capacity.

Methods

- We delivered two events via Zoom and at the University of Glasgow Medical School: the Lecture Evening and the subsequent Workshop Evening.
- These sessions aimed to improve attendees' understanding of the interview process and apply this knowledge through practice scenarios in a supported environment with feedback.
- Data was collected via pre- and post-event surveys, which assessed session usefulness and satisfaction, as well as WP participation.



Figure 1. Schematic representation of the Interview Information Events 2023.

Results - Event Feedback

- We hosted 129 attendees in total (47.28% WP), with students choosing to attend either one or both sessions (Lecture Evening: 105, Workshop Evening: 103).
- These events were facilitated by 48 medical student volunteers in total.

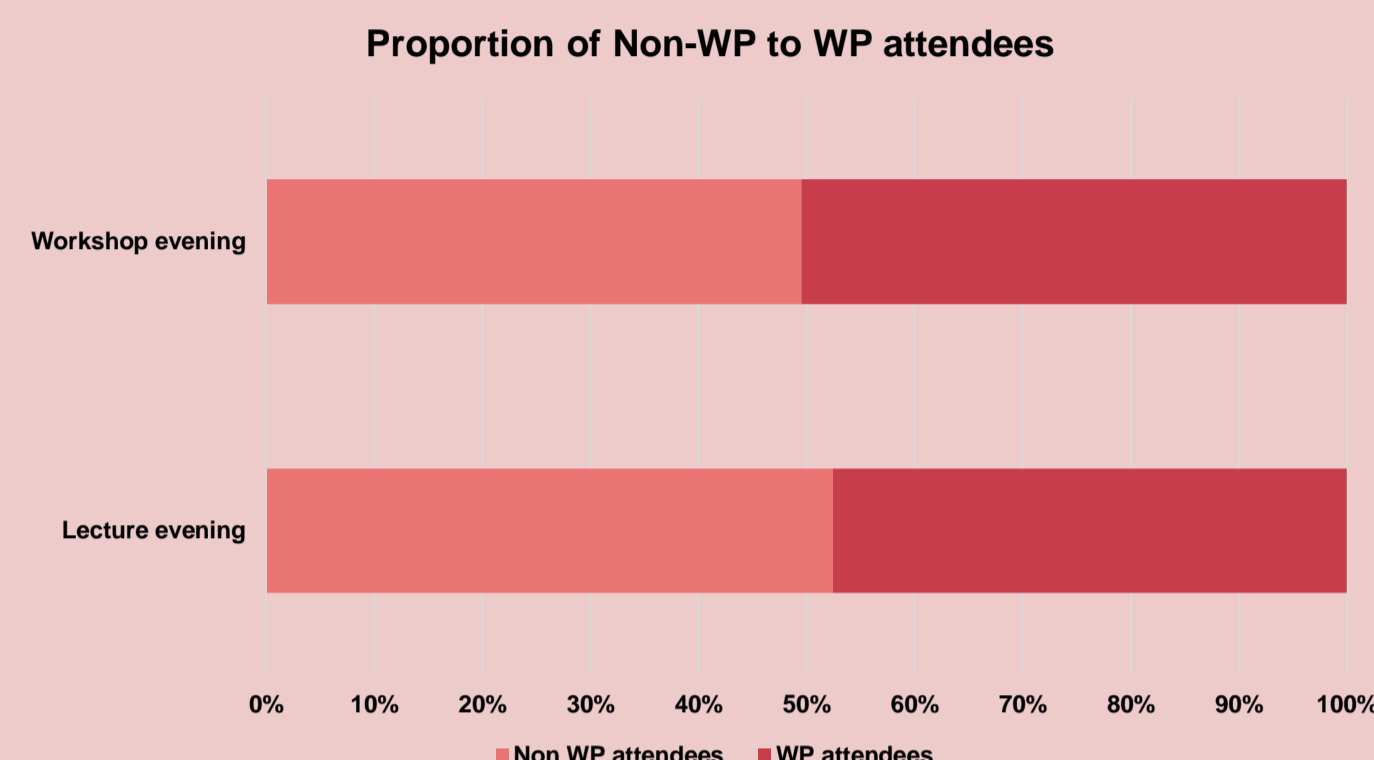


Figure 2. A comparison between the number of non-WP to WP students attending our 2023 Interview Events.

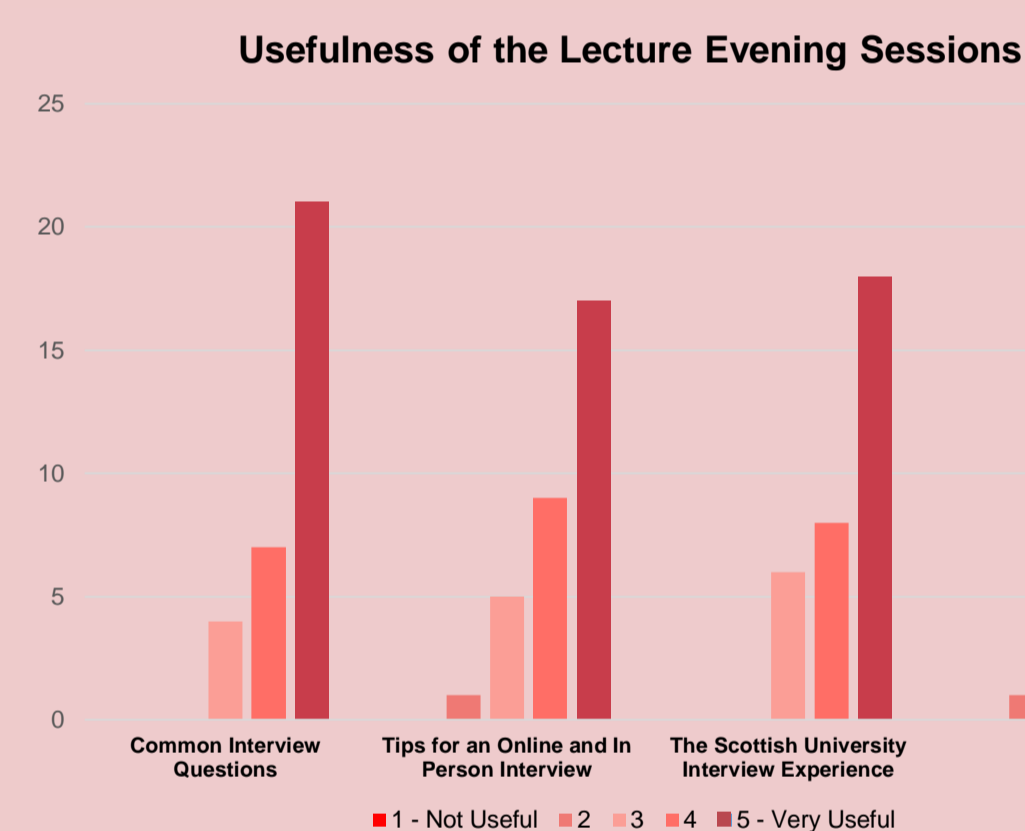


Figure 3: Representation of reported "usefulness" broken down for each of the Lecture Evening sessions, showing an average Likert score >4/5 for all.

- For the "Scottish University Interview" Lecture, the Likert result was statistically significantly higher for non-WP attendees compared to WP attendees ($p=0.023$).
- The Q&A session received the lowest average rating overall, suggesting improvements needed for this session.

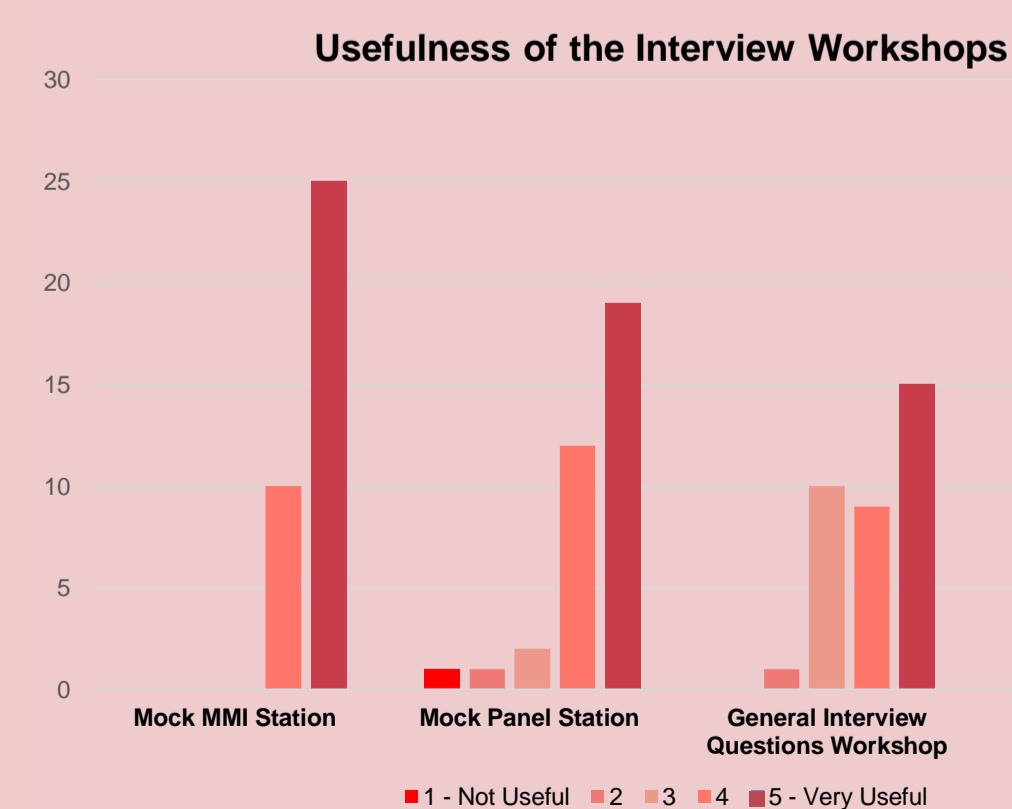


Figure 4: Representation of reported "usefulness" for each of the Workshop sessions, showing an average Likert score > 4/5 overall.

Conclusions



We successfully delivered a hybrid online and in-person, free-to-access outreach programme to 129 pupils preparing for their medical school interviews.



Our free event included a high proportion of pupils (47.28%) from a widening participation background.



Overall satisfaction and perceived content relevance was high across all our events and modes of delivery. However, the discrepancies in feedback between WP and non-WP students were noted and will be used in amending future sessions.



There is demand for both in-person and online delivery of our events. To continue promoting widening access, we will aim to run hybrid events whilst increasing in-person capacity where possible.



A similar programme could be easily reproduced by organisations across the country.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank all of the event participants who completed the evaluation surveys and all of our volunteers, both students and healthcare professionals, who made this programme possible.

Contact details

If you want to learn more about what Medic Insight Glasgow does, and how a similar programme could be set up at your organisation, please email the authors via: medicinsightglasgow@gmail.com

Medic Insight
Glasgow