

What is your attitude towards interprofessional learning (IPL)?

Maybe you really like and or look forward to interprofessional education (IPE) or maybe you think it is not important?

What are your views?

<p style="text-align: center;">Uncertain or Negative</p> <p>I am not sure about IPE and/or I find it hard to value this learning</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Certain and Positive</p> <p>I would prefer to do more of these events as I really like them</p>
<p>We could suggest the following reasons why you are unsure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have so much theory relating to my profession specific skills I cannot waste time thinking about being interprofessional • Aspects of IPE comprise a smaller part of my training and I can get away with poor assessments outcomes • I cannot really understand about how to practice yet as I have not spent time in my future practice environments • I have time to learn these skills after I qualify • I have worked in team in health and social care education before and feel I already know a great deal 	<p>We could suggest the following reasons for your positive approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are confident in your professional knowledge • You find this learning a rest from all your profession specific theory • You recognise the importance of preparing for team-based practice • You enjoy this type of interactive learning • You enjoy working with another group of students as you spent a lot of time with your own student group
<p>How might you reflect on your attitude now and try and become more positive?</p>	<p>How might you help others with a negative attitude towards IPE</p>

Please read the section entitled ['Why interprofessional education is important'](#)

Attitudes are multi-faceted, consisting of what a person believes, often known as the '*cognitive component*', what a person feels referred to as the '*affective component*' and thirdly, of what a person does, our '*behaviour*'. Attitudes are at their most extreme in the case of prejudice where the cognitive component comprises a stereotype. It is our behaviour which is most visible to others. We hope you will consider this when attending any interprofessional learning event as a negative attitude will be visible to others through the way you behave.

We hope that you will develop a positive attitude towards being interprofessional as it will affect your future career in many ways. Becoming interprofessional is very important as it will ensure you become a safe and excellent professional. You may make an excellent radiographer, doctor, nurse, social worker, etc, but like any excellent professional practising with the ability to work effectively with others will ensure you are perceived by the public and your colleagues as a competent professional. Good cakes taste even better with trimmings and coatings that can accompany them. Developing an appreciation of the value of team working and collaborative practice is both the icing and the cherry on the top of the cake. In this analogy being a good professional in your chosen career (the cake) combined with being interprofessional (the icing and cherry on top). Being incomplete in the twenty first century is no longer acceptable.

As team working is integral to all health and social care today you will not progress without developing and enhancing knowledge, skills and attitudes for interprofessional competence. Look at the following example; a doctor being interviewed for a new consultant post. One of his interview probing questions was

'Tell me what you think about team working?'

He replied

'The medical consultant always leads the team.'

This was his complete answer. This was not the answer the interviewing panel wished to hear and this candidate was compromised because he failed to appreciate the complex nature of team working. He could have discussed how important team working is for obtaining the best outcomes for patients; he could have spoken about the need to demonstrate a respect for other professionals in a team; or how he would work with other professionals to ensure the best practice for his patients; he could have said that teams are led by the right professional with the right level of expertise at any given moment in time.

How would you have answered this question?

Most students enjoy interprofessional learning and gain a great deal from learning more about other professions and sometime changing prior negative stereotypes.

Please read the section [‘top tips for preparing for interprofessional education’](#).

A word of caution

Coming to an event with a negative attitude will not be helpful to those with whom you are placed to learn. Negative attitudes are visible and might result in other students forming negative stereotypes relating to your chosen profession. **Attitudes** are a key influence on how people act and interact in groups. Remember your behaviour will demonstrate your attitude.