Student Volunteering Stories

Miran Faily - Widening Access to Medical Schools

WAMS has provided a whole host of events over the previous year, but one we are particularly passionate and proud about was a week-long work experience programme. This was a programme which offered year 12 students from less privileged backgrounds the opportunity to gain some work experience in a hospital. I'm sure many of you can appreciate the toil that is the medicine application process and one particular source of trepidation is gaining healthcare experience. Studies have shown this to be less available to lower income applicants and so WAMS felt it important to provide the opportunity.

The sessions hosted 30 students to shadow both doctors and medical students, all of whom volunteered for the programme. Without volunteers, the week could not have gone ahead, but the generosity of the volunteer's time and knowledge enabled us to hold an informative and powerfully resonating week for the participants. Within WAMS, volunteers are usually students. But in this case, the help of doctors ranging from the humble F1 to the all-powerful consultant provided students with a diverse range of experiences to learn from and reflect upon.

Overall over a 50 volunteers helped to make the programme run smoothly.
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It goes without saying that the programme couldn’t have been possible without devoted committee members who spent months organising an executing a slick and exciting week. WAMS almost exclusively relies on volunteers to host its programmes, most of whom are medical students who were only recently medicine applicants themselves. Our sessions are aimed at pupils from all ages and at many different types of schools, from sixth form colleges to primary schools, in the hopes of inspiring them to aspire towards a career in healthcare.