

Operating Department Practice (ODP)_____At the time they were issued with their devices, few mobile phones enabled access to the internet and email. The ODP students used the devices to access the internet and to contact each other and their tutors, and this was truly innovative.

Operating Department Practice (ODP)

The success of the ALPS mobile devices with the ODP students at the University of Huddersfield centred around the fact that they engaged with the ALPS project as a group and used the devices in several different ways before they were asked to complete mobile assessments.

At the time the students were issued with their devices, very few mobile phones enabled access to the internet and email. The ODP students used the devices to access the internet and to contact each other and their tutors, and this was truly innovative. The group were motivated to use the devices for mobile assessments, and for the ODP students this entailed completing the standard ODP assessments that had been converted to a mobile-friendly format using the ALPS Assessment Suite.

One of the challenges encountered by the ODP students stemmed from the fact that the ALPS devices did not synchronise with IT systems at the University of Huddersfield as quickly as anticipated. This delay adversely affected the students' enthusiasm for the project. However, students were encouraged to use the devices in other ways and while the ALPS assessments were not available, students could utilise online learning resources such as useful websites, PDFs, online videos etc.

Huddersfield recently received funding through a B2B project which will be used to purchase more devices or to extend the airtime of the current ones, for further cohorts to use in the future.

As well as using the ALPS mobile devices in practice, the ODP students have been involved in an infection-control project led by Stephen White at the University of Huddersfield. Mobile devices can be kept clean using antiseptic wipes, unlike notepads, loose-leaf folders and textbooks, which could harbour germs, including the so-called hospital superbug MRSA. Data has been gathered on base-level contamination from mobile devices. The generation of evidence continues, as the project team have received ethical approval to sample students' personal devices to broaden the study.



Optometry & Pharmacy_____At a seminar involving Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies, representatives from both professions felt that the ALPS Common Competency Maps and assessment tools had potential to feed into the Modernising of Scientific Careers work programme.

Optometry and Pharmacy

ALPS has worked, and is continuing to work closely with Optometry and Pharmacy, where progress has been more difficult due to limitations in practice based learning at undergraduate level. In both professions however, this is now changing and there is an increased interest in the ALPS outputs.

At a recent seminar involving Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs), representatives from both professions felt that the ALPS Common Competency Maps and assessment tools had potential to feed into the Modernising of Scientific Careers work programme within the Department of Health.

As courses are being revalidated there is a real opportunity to embed ALPS tools and processes at the point of curriculum development. ALPS partners are driving this agenda forward in consultation with PSRB colleagues.



As courses are being revalidated there is a real opportunity to embed ALPS tools and processes at the point of curriculum development