

INTERTUT – Interprofessional peer-assisted learning. Joint tutorials for trainees and students in the fields of medicine, nursing, occupational and physical therapy

INTERTUT stands for “INTERprofessional TUTORials”

In this sense, “tutorials” are learning experiences where college students function as tutors, leading and supporting their fellow students (“peers”) in the learning process.

As part of the INTERTUT project, students develop interprofessional tutorials and offer them to:

- Medical students
- Occupational and physical therapy students
- Trainees and students in nursing

The course offering will initially be extra-curricular learning activities. Tutorials such as these – by students for student – are already an important part of the philosophy of the Charité’s Learning Center. Until now, however, the peer-assisted learning program was limited to medical students only.

Within the context of the INTERTUT project, the development and implementation of the tutorials is supervised by all project partners; the students are responsible for the concept and peer-teaching, however.

Background and Objective

The particular challenge with this project is to make allowances for insights regarding interprofessional learning and, at the same time, meet the didactic requirements of peer-assisted learning.

The objective of the project is to gain knowledge as to how peer-assisted and peer-led courses can be interprofessionally structured beyond the limits of monoprofessional programs, individual training institutions and how well suited the peer-assisted learning approach is for interprofessional learning in the health care fields. Potential findings are expected with regard to success factors and challenges that can serve as the basis for implementing the tutorials into a curricular program.

Project Course and Results

As part of the INTERTUT project, teachers and learners in the fields of medicine, nursing, and occupational and physical therapy – from various universities and with various training environments – have developed a concept for interprofessional tutorials. Selected students from various technical fields were recruited as tutors, who then worked together to create concepts for four courses with different topics: (1) roles and responsibilities, (2) interprofessional communication, (3) team and teamwork, and (4) practical skills. Additional tutorials are being developed. The four-hour courses have already been carried out successfully as part of extracurricular programs in interprofessional team-teaching for the participating courses of study: medicine, nursing, and occupational and physical therapy. The tutors were selected from the participating programs and specifically trained.

For the purpose of evaluation, written feedback forms were reviewed and focus groups with participants and the tutors were used at a later stage of the project. In addition to the expertise gained by the participating trainees and students, working materials were developed as a result of the first funding phase of the INTERTUT project that can be used to deal with the topic of interprofessional learning and working, regardless of the institution and the training field.

The second project phase will involve the continuation of the successful work as well as its curricular integration and educational reflection. Both conceptual building blocks – the

extracurricular approach and the peer-assisted learning – will be continued in the follow-up project and expanded to a broader basis. Beyond this, the second project phase will involve

- (a) a review of the possible expansion of the extracurricular program,
- (b) advancement of the curricular integration with the participating study and training programs, and
- (c) reflection upon – and possible optimization of – the effect of the measures regarding interprofessional teaching, learning, and working.

For this purpose, the valuable partnerships within the Charité university hospital from the first phase of the project will be maintained and, at the same time, expanded to the project team of INTER-M-E-P-P. The collaboration with external Berlin-based partner Alice Salomon Hochschule is also expected to continue; additionally, the Evangelische Hochschule Berlin (EHB) will be added to the project as a partner with its Bachelor of Nursing program. From now on, undergraduate students from the health care sciences program and graduate students from the health professions education program at Charité will be involved. Additionally, the contents of the events have been further developed and, to a certain extent, opened to other health care professions – for example dietitians, speech therapy, and obstetrics.

Project Partners:

- Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin, occupational and physical therapy program
- Evangelische Hochschule Berlin, bachelor of nursing program
- Charité Health Academy, nursing training program
- Institute of Health and Nursing Science at Charité university hospital in Berlin
- Learning Center of medical faculty at Charité university hospital in Berlin

Contact

Program Officer:

Professor Michael Ewers, director of the Institute for Health and Nursing Science

Professor Adelheid Kuhlmeier, vice-dean for teaching and learning

Tutor Team Contact:

Annika Lena Wolfsberger annika-lena.wolfsberger@charite.de

Johannes Abert: johannes.abert@charite.de

Project management:

Kathrin Reichel, research associate

kathrin.reichel@charite.de

CHARITÉ – UNIVERSITÄTSMEDIZIN BERLIN

“INTERTUT – learning, teaching, and working cooperatively” project

Campus Virchow-Klinikum (CVK), Institute of Health and Nursing Science (IGPW)

Augustenburger Platz 1

13353 Berlin

Phone: +49-30-450-529-145

Fax: +49-30-450-529-900

Support: From the Robert Bosch Stiftung as part of the Operation Team support program

Duration: January 2016–August 2017