



Pemberton Undergraduate Prize in Epidemiology and Public Health and Carnwath Medal and Prize in Public Health

[Please Note: There is no requirement to apply for this prize. Participation is optional.]

Award Details:

Pemberton: Approximately £100 (subject to endowed funds)

Carnwath: 1ST Place winner: Silver Medal and book prize of approx £200, 2nd Place winner: book prize of approx £100 (subject to endowed funds)

The awards are presented at the School annual prizegiving ceremony in December.

Knowledge of the principles and practice of Epidemiology and Public Health are key to good medical practice. Students may compete for the Pemberton and Carnwath prizes, for Epidemiology and Public Health, which are awarded on the basis of performance in an optional assignment.

Background

Pemberton Undergraduate Prize in Epidemiology and Public Health

The Pemberton Undergraduate Prize in Epidemiology and Public Health was created in 1998 from a gift donated by Professor John Pemberton. Professor John Pemberton was appointed Professor of Social and Preventive Medicine in Queen's University in 1958. He developed the Departments' interest in Cardiovascular Epidemiology with an early prospective study of the development of coronary heart disease in General Practice. In 1965-66 a study of fatal myocardial infarction in Belfast paved the way for the introduction of mobile coronary care. He retired from what was by then the Department of Community Medicine in 1976. He was influential in founding the International Epidemiological Association, the Society of Social Medicine and the All Ireland Social Medicine Meeting.

A **prize of £100** will be awarded annually to the 2nd year medical student who achieves the highest mark in the optional assignment set. In the event of a tie, the prize will be divided equally.

Carnwath Medal and Prize in Public Health (Undergraduate and Postgraduate)

Two medals to be called the Carnwath Medals were founded in 1954 by Mrs T. Carnwath and her sons A. H. and T. D. Carnwath, in memory of the late Dr Thomas Carnwath, DSO. A medal and book prize will be awarded to the student gaining the highest mark in the optional assignment set which draws upon the Epidemiology and Public Health aspects of the year 1 and year 2 undergraduate medicine curriculum. A book prize will go to the student gaining the next highest mark.

Details of the Optional Assignment:

Submit a hypothetical study protocol for a Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT), including mixed methods for data collection, to address a specific health-related research question (see submission format below).

New submission format for 2025-26

- **A recorded video presentation of no more than 3 minutes long and a maximum of 6 slides. The presentation must include slides to outline the written/visual content and either a voiceover to accompany the slides or entrants may record themselves presenting the slides. It is anticipated that submissions will use MS Powerpoint.**

Clearly explain:

1. **Why** have you chosen the specific health-related issue under investigation in your hypothetical RCT? (i.e., why is it an issue for public health, and how will your research build upon existing evidence in the area?)
2. **Who** is it aimed at? (i.e., participant inclusion and exclusion criteria)
3. **What** will you do? (i.e., describe your proposed (hypothetical) intervention, ensuring it is plausible and informed by evidence)
4. **How** would you **measure or assess any impact/outcomes** from your intervention using both quantitative **and** qualitative approaches? (For example: questionnaires/clinical measures/samples such as objective biomarkers (in blood/saliva etc.), alongside interviews/focus groups/observations etc.)
5. Any other considerations? (For example: consider PPIE ('personal/patient and public involvement and engagement' in the research process; any necessary ethics and/governance approval etc.; and dissemination plans – i.e., how will you plan to share the results of your hypothetical research).

Useful Resources:

- Read the example protocols and suggested articles on Canvas, including:
- Shickh S, Hirjikaka D, Clausen M, et al. Genetics Adviser: a protocol for a mixed-methods randomised controlled trial evaluating a digital platform for genetics service delivery BMJ Open 2022;12:e060899. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2022-060899
- PPIE: <https://engage.hscni.net/>
- Ethics: <https://www.hra.nhs.uk/documents/318/impact-public-involvement-ethical-aspects-research-updated-2016.pdf>
- Use any teaching material from Y1 and Y2 on RCTs and qualitative research methods to inform your hypothetical research protocol.

If you have any queries please e-mail Dr Laura McGowan (laura.mcgowan@qub.ac.uk)

Eligible Students: Year 2

Submission: Email Rosaleen.smyth@qub.ac.uk

Deadline: 10 July 2026

N.B. Winner/(s) will be informed in late Autumn 2026