

Fiona Stewart Memorial Award



This award has been established in memory of Fiona Stewart, a long standing tutor for the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh online postgraduate programmes in Health Informatics and Remote and Offshore Medicine. Fiona joined initially as a student of the Diploma in Medical Informatics programme, before going on to become a much valued member of the teaching team. Following her death in 2012, we are establishing this award to honour and remember her commitment to adult learning and personal development through her contribution to the programmes.

The purpose of the award is to acknowledge the achievements of a DipROM student based on their performance at the residential individually, but also as part of a team. To achieve this, the award will be given to the student who has the highest combined score from the research presentation and the table top exercise as assessed by the tutor responsible for these sessions at the residential. The criteria for assessment are published as part of the residential documentation. The award will be made annually commencing in 2014.

The person receiving this award will be presented with an engraved College Quaich.



Fiona's Educational Journey

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When Fiona Stewart started an online diploma in Medical Informatics, she was a bundle of nerves. Not particularly knowledgeable of the ways of the internet in 2001 and not having studied for a number of years, Fiona had a lot of apprehension as she signed up for the course.

Fast forward to today, two years after her graduation with an MSc in Healthcare Informatics and you find an accomplished professional whose qualifications have led to her taking on new responsibilities

The experience of taking a degree online - as opposed to the traditional classroom setting also proved to be fruitful for Fiona. "I needed to be able to juggle my family and work responsibilities as well as get a qualification. The way the programme was structured really made it possible for me to do that. I could fit it around my life and study to my own timing".

Fiona also appreciated the opportunity to interact with people from all over the world. "It really opens you up to new perspectives. The online discussions were fascinating as you learn how people in different countries tackle similar problems"

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*Extract from interview originally published on
RCSEd e-Learning Website from 2008 – 2012*

Fiona carried this approach into her tutoring believing that lifelong learning was an important aspiration and providing support to help students achieve this.