

Education Research Division, School of Medicine: Strategy 2026

The Education Research Division aims to position St Andrews as a recognised centre of excellence for education scholarship, innovation, and thought leadership in medicine and the health professions. Our strategy aligns with University priorities and national policy goals shared by NHS Education Scotland and the Scottish Government.

Strategic Themes: What we do

Our activity will be structured around three inter-connected themes that reflect our distinctive contribution and national relevance:



Community

- Evaluation and enhancement of programmes that deliver education within and for communities, including the unique models of ScotGEM and ScotCOM.
- This theme examines how community-embedded learning influences student outcomes, interprofessional learning, educator/patient experiences, and the provision and sustainability of health services.



Workforce

- Evidence-based studies on professional identity, wellbeing, career sustainability, and workforce distribution.
- This includes the evaluation of educational interventions that influence recruitment, retention, and resilience within the NHS workforce, specifically in relation to our Community theme.



Digital

- Design, evaluation, and governance of technology-enhanced learning and assessment, including AI-enabled simulation, data-driven feedback, and equitable digital pedagogy.
- This theme connects directly to the University's Digital and Entrepreneurial pillars, and relates to how we deliver our programmes.

Types of Activity: How we do it

The Division's success will be measured through outcomes across three complementary domains:



Implementation and Review

Progress will be monitored annually through divisional meetings and integrated into the School's research and teaching governance structures. The strategy will be refined in late-2026 to ensure alignment with institutional priorities and national developments in medical education.