International studies of interprofessional education in social and health care education shows positive aspects to students’ attitudes and teamwork skills at school. There are known positive outcomes also working skills in the field in the future. In Finland interprofessional education for social and health care students is rare, even when in the practice social and health care professionals work really closely together.

The aim of this research was to describe social and health care students’ perceptions and attitudes of interprofessional collaboration during an interprofessional course. The aim was also to describe possible changes in students’ attitudes and skills during the course. In addition, the aim was to find out how to promote these interprofessional working skills.

The target group of this research consisted of medical, dental, biomedical, social and nursing students from two different institutions who participated into the interprofessional course in University of Turku. Data were collected in autumn 2015 using questionnaires and focus group interviews. The students answered to the questionnaires before and after the interprofessional course. The quantitative data were analysed using SPSS 22.0®. Qualitative data that were collected with interviews and open-ended questions, were analysed using inductive content analysis.

According to the results students’ experiences of the interprofessional education were positive and they would like this kind of teaching strategies used more often in their studies. Attitudes towards interprofessional education and collaboration were positive and they improved during the course. Students felt that both their and other professions’ role was more clear after the course. But the results also revealed that importance of the students’ own role in the interprofessional team was unclear for some students. Some problems were experienced during the course. They were connected to the time schedules and other students’ ways of studying less active, not to the interprofessional collaboration.

The results of students’ perceptions of interprofessional education and collaboration were similar to the findings of previous studies. Interprofessional education in social and health care studies will lead to students’ positive attitudes and improve their interprofessional collaborations skills. They are important to know considering both own work and patient’s point of view. The results of this study can be used for planning and improving interprofessional education.

**Keywords:** interprofessional collaboration, education in social and health care, perceptions, attitudes, interprofessional skills