



Cultural Competencies in Nursing Education

Aims & objectives

To longitudinally assess the development of cultural competence among undergraduate nursing students across a 3-year programme, and to evaluate cultural competence among nurse educators.

1. Measure students' cultural competence at key stages of clinical education;
2. Compare cultural competence across student cohorts and nurse educators;
3. Examine cultural awareness, cultural sensitivity and culturally competent behaviours;
4. Explore factors associated with cultural competence;
5. Inform improvements in nursing curricula and educator preparation to support culturally competent, equitable and safe patient care.

Methodology

Design: An observational descriptive, longitudinal study conducted in Malta with undergraduate nursing students and nurse educators.

Data collection: Online questionnaires administered:

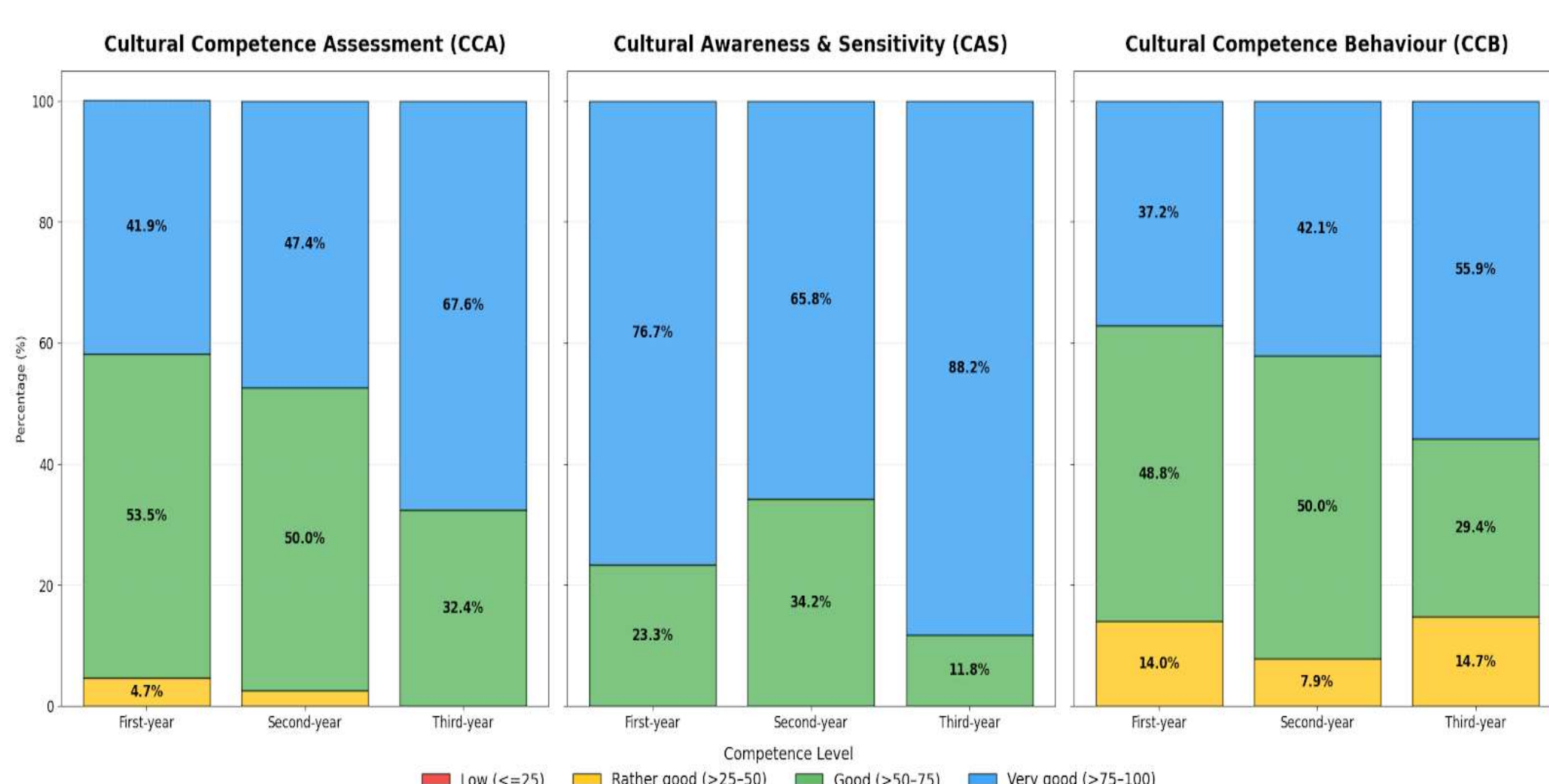
- once for nurse educators
- at multiple points during the programme for students.

Measures: Validated questionnaires assessed:

- Cultural Competence Assessment
- Cultural Competence Awareness & Sensitivity
- Cultural Competence Behaviours
- International/intercultural experiences.

Analysis: Descriptive and inferential statistics summarised competence scores, compared groups and explored group differences and factors associated with cultural competence.

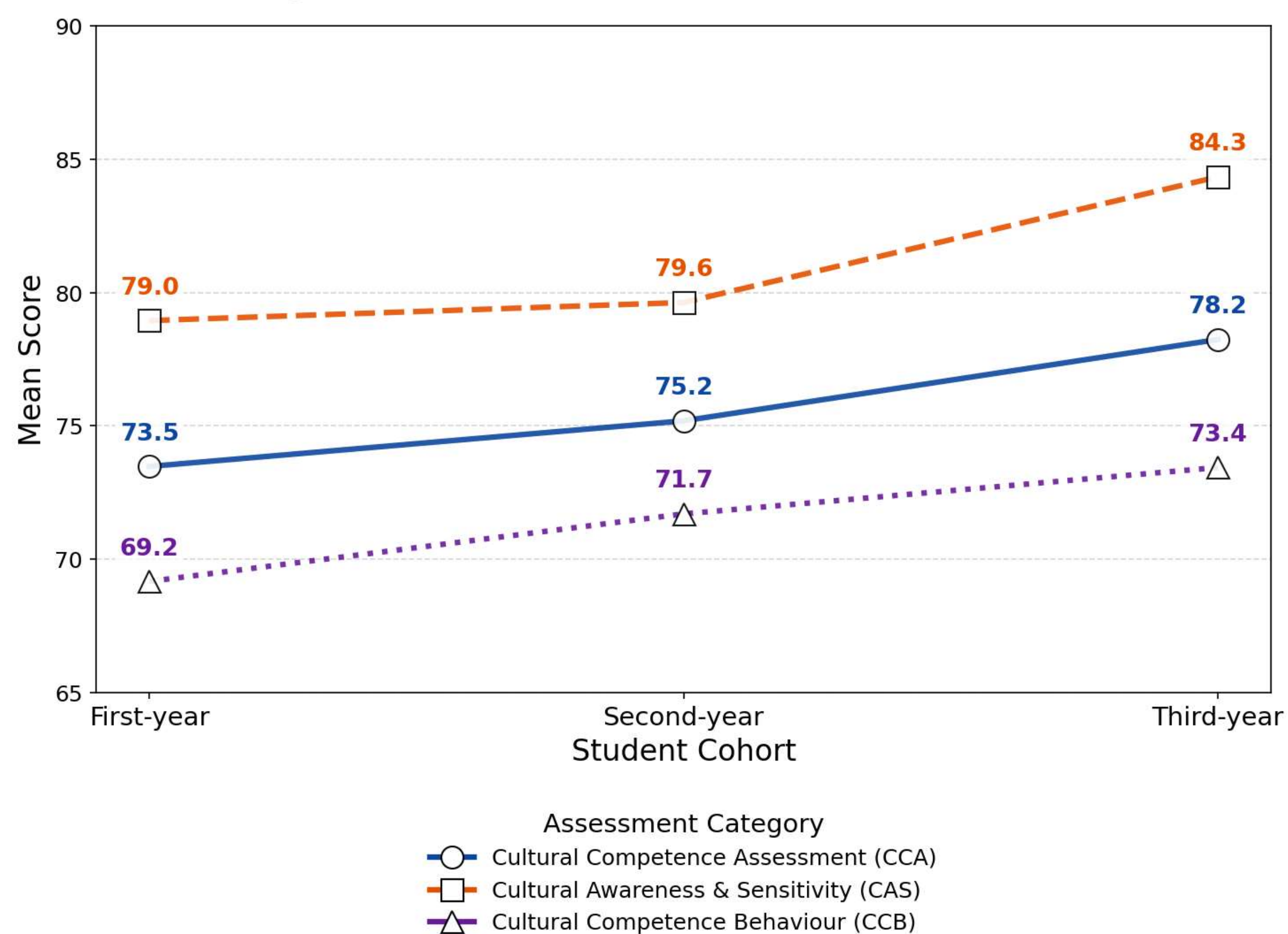
Frequency of Competence Levels by Assessment Category



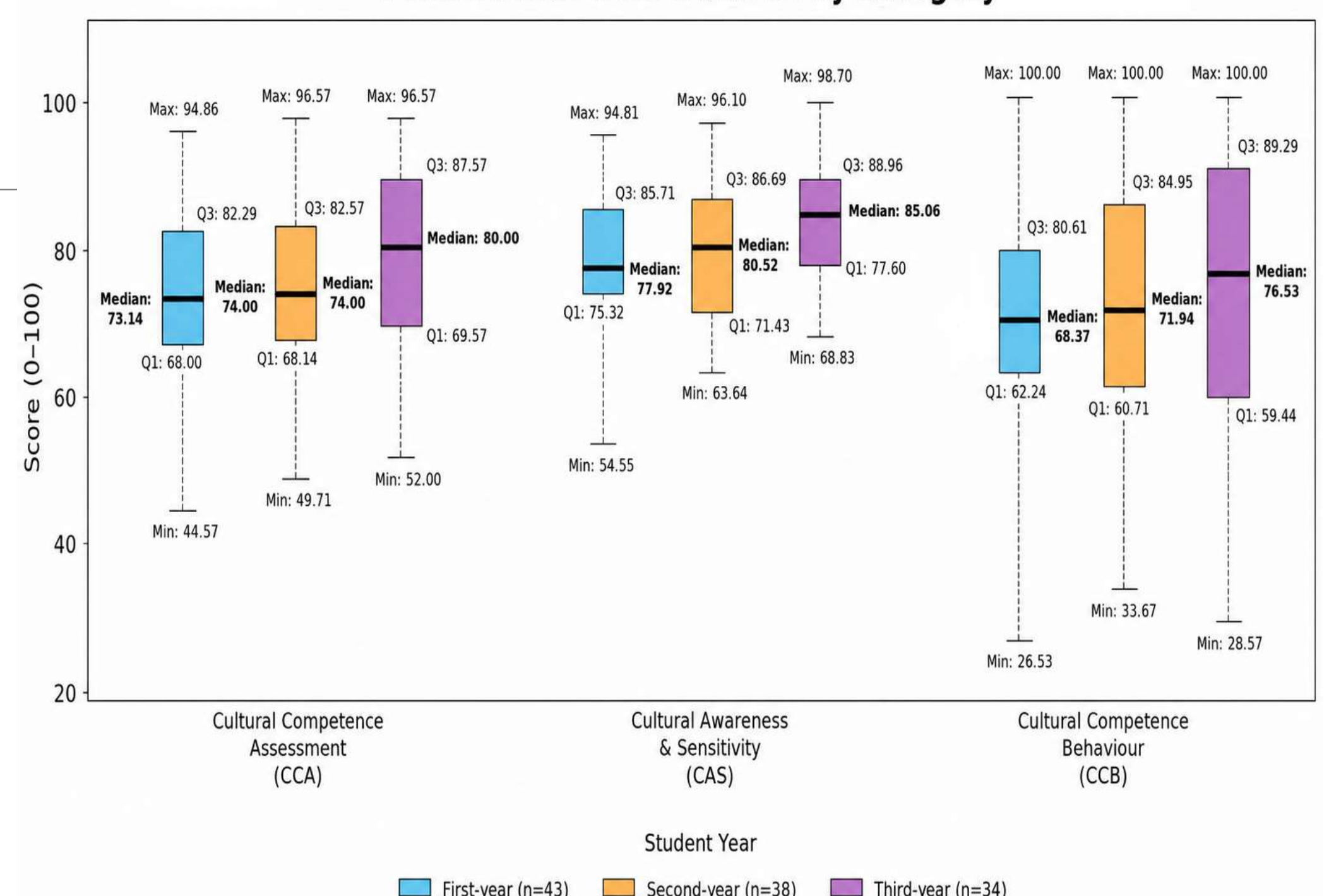
Results (Students)

- Cultural competence improved progressively across the programme.
- Clinical exposure & maturity play important roles.
- Strong cultural awareness was observed but behaviour-based competencies need support.

Progression of Mean Scores over Three Years



Detailed Score Distribution by Category



Results (Educators)

- Academic qualifications significantly associated with higher CAS scores ($t = -3.001$, $p = 0.008$).
- Years of teaching experience demonstrated a significant moderate positive correlation with the CCB scores ($r = 0.474$, $p = 0.040$).