

## Work Experience >>> Apprenticeship



CELEBRATING THE JOURNEY OF  
SAPPHIRE LANGDON

Apprentice Neurophysiologist

Following her success in securing an apprenticeship here at UHP we were keen to shout about Sapphire's journey and how she was able to use valuable knowledge gained during a work experience placement in Neurophysiology to begin the career she had dreamed of. Nicola Broomfield, Clinical Scientist/Service Lead, and Sapphire Langdon, Apprentice share how work experience placements, can lead to great opportunities.

### **Nicola, why did you decide to provide a work experience opportunity within your department?**

*We decided to offer work experience after a successful Trust open day that attracted interest from a number of school leavers. We find recruitment difficult in the south-west and tend to need to 'grow our own' future workforce. The apprenticeship model is new to us but I think it will meet our needs well.*

### **Sapphire, what made you want to apply for work experience and how did you apply?**

*"I initially applied for the work experience as it looked like the perfect match to my interests in Psychology and Biology as Neurophysiology holds many aspects of both subject areas and seemed like a very exciting opportunity to see my biological interests in action"*

*I was given contact details for the department which I obtained at a careers day at the hospital. I then emailed Nikki and expressed my interests. She swiftly responded with the required health and safety and work experience forms.*



### **Nicola, how did the work experience opportunity help Sapphire when applying for the apprenticeship opportunity within your department?**

*Work experienced gave Sapphire an opportunity to see what working in neurophysiology and the wider hospital environment is like. It is important to know what both the possible future experience of university and the work place is like (both for the candidate and the department)*

Put people first  
Take ownership  
Respect others  
Be positive  
Listen, learn, improve

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## Pathways to Apprenticeships

Insights from an Apprentice and Recruiting Manager

**Sapphire, can you tell us how the work experience placement helped with your application for the apprenticeship?**

*My work experience was highly beneficial to my application as it gave me an insight into what the department do on a day-to-day basis which gave me the necessary tools and preparation to meet the requirements and expectations for the apprenticeship. Such as, working with a range of patients with different backgrounds and challenges.*



**Nicola, what advice would you give someone looking to begin a career in Neurophysiology?**

*If you read up and you think it is for you, contact us and we will gladly assist you. Take a look at the National School of Healthcare science website [www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk](http://www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk) as there are different routes into the profession.*

**Sapphire why did you choose an apprenticeship as your career pathway and what are your career aspirations and goals?**

*I chose an apprenticeship as my career pathway as I strongly believe that experience is the most important factor for learning. University was my original pathway to which I was going to apply for neuroscience, however, working with patients and with the department I feel will make my career stronger and myself more confident.*

*My career aspirations and goals are to reach my full academic potential by being successful in the level 6 position and go even further to do a masters and potentially a PhD in the future! In the work place I would like to be involved in sleep studies and further research as I find it to be incredibly interesting as well as extend knowledge into complex disorders which are yet to have a cure.*



**“Work experience was highly beneficial to my application”**

**What advice would you give someone considering applying for an apprenticeship?**

*Go to the hospital’s career days and talk to as many departments as you can and from there do a range of work experience. It is the best way to show your interests and find out what your career interests are, this will also ensure that you find the job that is best for you and suits your interests.*

