



SACHINI'S JOURNEY

WORK EXPERIENCE TO A CAREER IN CLINICAL ENGINEERING



After graduating from university during the pandemic, I found it really difficult to break into the field. Like many others, I lacked hands-on experience, and despite applying for several roles, I kept hitting the same barrier: I had the theory but not the practical background employers were looking for. I attended an NHS careers talk at the Jobcentre, where I met a member of the NHS recruitment team. After hearing about my background and interests, a shadow day in Clinical Engineering was arranged. That one day made such a difference, it gave me a real insight into the kind of work the team does and confirmed that it was the right path for me. Following the experience I reached out to the manager who generously offered me a work placement within the department. This time was invaluable. I learned so much about the day-to-day responsibilities of the team, from the technical aspects of medical equipment maintenance to the importance of accurate documentation and the role Clinical Engineering plays in supporting patient safety. Being in that environment helped me grow in confidence and develop practical skills that I hadn't been able to gain during university. When a vacancy came up, the team encouraged me to apply. I felt nervous at first, but having their support meant everything, they reassured me that I was ready and helped guide me through the process. I'm proud to say I was successful, and I'm now working in the department as a Clinical Engineering Technician.

The Placement Experience to Employment

The experience was incredibly positive. From day one, I felt included and supported by the team. I was encouraged to ask questions and get involved wherever appropriate, which made it a true learning experience rather than just observation. It gave me the chance to understand the scope of the role in a real-world setting and showed me how theory translates into practice. The team created a space where I felt comfortable to learn, make mistakes, and grow, which was really empowering as someone new to the field. Because of that experience, I was already familiar with the systems and environment, and I had a much stronger application. Without that opportunity, I don't think I would have had the confidence, or even the eligibility, to apply.

A Passion for Clinical Engineering

There's so much I enjoy about this role. The variety of the work means no two days are the same: you're constantly learning, troubleshooting, and adapting to new situations. But what I find most rewarding is knowing that what we do directly contributes to patient care, even if we're not working on the front line. Every piece of equipment we check, repair, or service is part of a patient's journey, and it feels good to be playing a part in that. I also really appreciate the team environment - everyone is supportive, knowledgeable, and willing to share their experience, which makes it a great place to develop.

A message from the line manager

UHP's Clinical Engineering offers careers that may not be imagined when people consider healthcare roles. Consequently, recruitment for us has always been a challenge. This is why I was pleased when the opportunity arose for Sachini to gain some work experience with us and I supported fully, happy to share knowledge of what we do to support our collective patients care. Following all the protocols for work experience, Sachini started with us and after an induction began to sample the different works performed by each of our teams, bringing enthusiasm and drive to her work experience. Feedback throughout, from the teams was amazing and Sachini made the most of the opportunity, gaining hands on experience that complimented her already present knowledge and supported her application and interview for a technician role when it came up. Now her career path is progressive to Clinical Engineer in time with experience developed, evidenced and assessed in a portfolio and then in part with professional registration onwards to Senior Engineer. And there is a whole career beyond that too.

We put people first
 We take ownership
 We respect and value each other
 We are compassionate
 We listen, learn and improve