

Meet the apprentice



Last year we launched our 'Meet the apprentice' series, where we were looking for insights into what it means to be a healthcare apprentice.

We shared through our HASO website and the Skills for Health website short pieces of work featuring incredible, hard-working and inspirational apprentices. These included apprentices from across the country doing various different apprenticeships from Business Administrators, Nursing Associates, Chartered Managers, Healthcare Support Workers to HR Consultants.

To mark this year's series coming to an end, we have pulled together the best quotes and tips from throughout the series which should inspire anyone considering doing an apprenticeship.

Keep reading to find out more.

Top tips from apprentices

LEARNING



Put absolutely everything into the coursework however pace yourself and ensure that you have time to yourself to continue normality. Use all sources available to you in order to understand the aspects learnt such as spending days with additional healthcare professionals to gauge a view at everything a patient's care can involve.



Seek out areas of interest and use the course to gain further knowledge and experience. Forge relationships with your fellows and learn about their varied specialties. Set yourself deadlines and study days and you will be fine.



Learn how to undertake evidence-based research and referencing. Learn how to structure essays but most of all enjoy the course and the experiences it brings.



I would 100% recommend it as you gain so much more knowledge this way rather than sitting in a classroom each day as you are able to put into practice new skills and knowledge as you are gaining ward experience.



Allow time for your assignments and discuss with your employer how you can you put your learning into practice whilst it is fresh in your mind!

Top tips from apprentices

SUPPORT



Ensure you keep up to date with all coursework and don't leave it all to last minute, plan your time well. Also, ensure you raise any concerns with your apprenticeship manager and don't try to battle these worries alone. You will be fully supported.



I would say to go for it, if you struggle (like it did with maths) tell your provider you are struggling, be open as the help and support are available for you. Don't feel silly asking for help.



The NHS is a great place to start an apprenticeship as there is always room for progression. Apprenticeships not only give you knowledge about the field which you are studying but also equip you with vital life skills to enhance your people skills, personal development, professional development, communication skills and so much more. I came across some difficulties but you have so much support from your employer and mentors that you overcome them in no time.



Take your time and don't rush yourself, if there is anything you don't understand just ask. People are there to help you and asking for help can improve your understanding of what you are doing.

Top tips from apprentices

OPPORTUNITIES



Take every opportunity that becomes available to you. I have been offered many chances to visit different organisations and attend events where I can meet new people. I was doubtful at first about attending these events as I didn't know anyone and have a small knowledge base as I am a new apprentice. However, I am so grateful to have met new people and get the opportunity to hear how other organisations work. I believe that the best way to progress in an apprenticeship is to build connections with others. This is why I am eager to say yes to every opportunity that becomes available to me.



You have to show the people you are working with that you're willing to learn. You gain so much from displaying this. It's hard work so you need to be passionate about what you're doing. Say yes to every opportunity.



I would recommend it. The opportunities and experiences are amazing and it's a way into the NHS and it gives you lots of pathways for the future. It also allows you to make a little bit of money on the side as well as training.



Embrace placements, make contact with your mentor there before you start and arrange a meeting. It helps overcome anxieties and deals with practicalities such as shifts and breaks!

Top tips from apprentices

GO FOR IT



Literally just go for it. An apprenticeship in healthcare is a job you can either hate or love. It can give you the best experiences as you are working along patients who are ill and you can be the reason they have smiles on their faces. It's an amazing job and you'll undoubtedly have so many more opportunities in the future with the experience you gain from an apprenticeship.



If working in healthcare is something you've been thinking about for a while and don't feel like University is for you and you want to gain invaluable experience and skills working on the front line NHS, then go for it! You have nothing to lose.



Go for it, the road may be hard and you will feel like giving up at times but persevere and you will have a career that makes you feel whole each and every day. The world needs more nurses.



Do it! I have met HCA's who have been with the Trust for years and have not covered what I have during my apprenticeship journey. I found it an excellent introduction into Hospital life and the invaluable experience I have gained will only make me a better clinician.