



ASSOCIATION OF APPRENTICES

Meet Courtney Short, a member from the Association of Apprentices working in Ambulatory Care - Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust.

The Association of Apprentices (AoA) is a UK-wide membership organisation that supports apprentices by creating a community that helps them maximise their potential. The Association is open to all apprentices across the UK and provides support, information and guidance beyond what may be received from employers and/or training providers.

As well as being FOR apprentices, they wanted the Association to be BY apprentices. The Association wanted its work to be guided by apprentices themselves to ensure that it really does meet apprentices' needs. To help achieve this they recruited an Apprentice Council that has direct strategic input into the Association's development and Courtney Short from Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust was successful in her application to become a Council Member.

What attracted you to want to be part of the council?

I wanted to become a member of the Apprentice council because I had very recently just completed and passed my apprenticeship and I wanted to pass on my experience and knowledge that I had gained onto somebody that now requires it, as well as help a younger generation realise and maximise their potential early on in their careers, I also wanted to experience the amazing opportunity to social network myself and be able to structure the framework in how future apprentices are managed.

I aspire to become a mentor and help those that have lost faith or simply just need a boost in morale and confidence in completing their apprenticeship to the best of their abilities despite the barriers that they could potentially face, I want to be a prime example of presenting positivity even when it seems like the odds are against you.

How do you think being part of the council will help your career development?

I believe that by being an active member of the AOA, it will provide me with the opportunity to social network myself with individuals of all different backgrounds, levels and power as well as get my name out there in the apprenticeship world, I feel as though it will demonstrate to employers that my opinion, thoughts and ideas are worthy and that my judgments count in the apprenticeship and development sector, this will show authority and give them the evidence of my reliability and prove to them that I am a character who is trusted with responsibility.

This opportunity will give me the chance to learn and grow and develop as an individual and give my current personal skills an enhancement. By being thrown in at the deep end and having to develop professional relationships with a mixture of diverse individuals in such a short space amount of time, I feel it will lay down foundations for me in the future and give me further independence and confidence within myself on how to communicate on all levels, also in different types of scenarios.