

# UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON HOSPITALS APPRENTICES WORKING ON THE FRONT LINE



University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UCLH) has many clinical apprentices working on the front line in the fight against COVID-19. These clinical apprentices include nurses, nursing associates, healthcare support workers and advanced clinical practitioners.

UCLH clinical apprentices are continuing with their apprenticeships and staying on programme at this unprecedented time.



Natalie Holbery, Head of Nurse Education said:

***"It looks a little different, but our apprentices are doing the job that they are employed to do and continuing with their studies, fully supported by the Trust."***

All learning has moved over to online/remote/virtual learning and UCLH are ensuring the apprentices are given enough time to continue their online studies. Their placements may look slightly different but are continuing.

UCLH feel strongly about their apprentices completing their programmes on time, as Natalie said ***"these apprentices are valued members of the team and some are our future registered workforce and we therefore need them to complete as planned"***.

Some apprentices have been deployed into other areas of the Trust due to services closing or staff shortages, this gives the apprentices an opportunity to develop new skills and practices which they may not have had experienced had it not been for COVID-19.

Their newest cohort of Nursing Associate Apprentices started their first placement in practice at the beginning of April – which will have undoubtedly been scary and daunting for these new apprentices. They are all fully supported during this time and are continuing with their programme of study.

UCLH have supported some apprentices who have asked for a break in learning, these apprentices are continuing to work on the front line in their role, but have paused their learning as they feel they cannot fully commit to the COVID-19 response and study at the same time. The Trust completely support their decision.

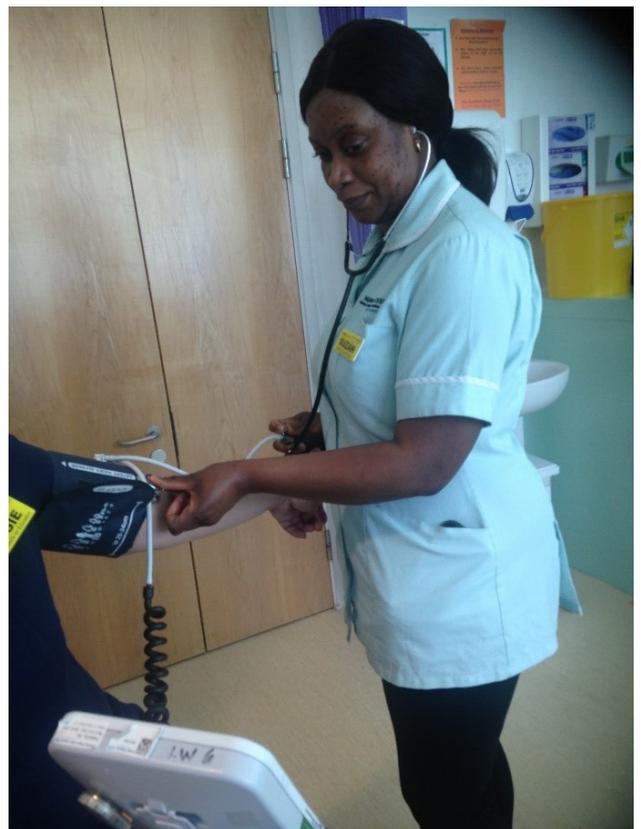
UCLH has excellent working relationships with their training providers, are in contact with them regularly and are working together to ensure the apprentices are fully supported and there is flexibility around when study is completed.

#### **Suzan Contoe, a Healthcare Support Worker Apprentice said:**

***"Working in the front line as an apprentice during this pandemic has opened a whole new learning curve to adapt to. My training provider and Trust have been really supportive, we now have our classes remotely and I still get my off the job hours weekly. My tutor has also made herself readily available to be contacted if we have any issues.***

***Last week, Angie Velinor, Lead Midwife for Education and Maternity CPF Team Lead at UCLH visited my department to offer some training to enhance my skills.***

***In conclusion, I would say that I have been equipped with all the support that can be given to me at this unprecedented time and I am taking it one day at a time."***



For apprenticeship updates, resources and guidance related to Coronavirus (Covid-19) please visit [HASO](https://haso.skillsforhealth.org.uk/).



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