

BECOMING A CHARTERED MANAGER (NHS) - REAL LIFE STORY

Showcasing different roles through apprenticeships



Meet Oliver Inwards, a Level 6 Chartered Management Degree apprentice working for Health Education England.

Oliver started working for the NHS after leaving sixth form. He decided to apply for an apprenticeship as the idea of learning and working at the same time really appealed to him as well as the possibility to progress further.

He started his level 2 Business Admin apprenticeship framework with very little work experience and went on to complete a level 4 apprenticeship and is currently doing a level 6 degree apprenticeship.

1 How did you get your apprenticeship?

I got my apprenticeship via my work organisational development team. I had completed my level 2 and level 4 apprenticeship frameworks with the organisation, and once they announced their plans for how to use our levy funds, I put in an application for the Level 6 apprenticeship standard most relevant to my role. They then decided based on applications who was most suited to undertake an apprenticeship, and I was lucky enough to be chosen!

2 Who is your training provider and what is the study model like?

My University is Aston University based in Birmingham. The course is mainly delivered online via a webinar and readings, with the occasional on campus days (2 days per term). I, of course, get the 20% off-the-job training time at work, which I try to organise to be one afternoon of study per week, but this can fluctuate based on workload. There is an expectation that some study time will be during hours at home too.

3 What types of things have you been doing in your off-the-job learning?

Mainly so far in my off-the-job learning, I have been using the time to catch up on my academic reading, as I struggle to find time to do this outside of work. I have also been using this time to plan and complete module assignments, and webinar pre-work.

4 What has been the hardest part?

I am only a few months into this apprenticeship, and so far for me the hardest part has definitely been the academic reading and referencing. I'm still trying to get my head around how many different types of referencing there are!

5 What has been the best part?

So far the best part has been meeting members of my cohort and undertaking a group project, getting to meet and work with new people from other areas of business, and learn/interact with them has been really good.

6 What do you hope to do next?

I am hoping once I have completed my apprenticeship in 3 years' time, to be able to have the qualifications and experience to move into a project manager/leader role, hopefully within the NHS.

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Who has been there to guide, advise and support you?

Throughout my apprenticeship journey, I have been very lucky to work in very supportive teams. My managers have worked with me and other colleagues to make sure I have had a range of different opportunities available to me, to be able to meet the different standards I have done – and they have also shown a lot of trust in me to demonstrate my learning in the work setting, providing support but not micromanaging.

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Where do you see yourself in the next 10 years?

At this moment in time I wouldn't say I have a set "plan" of action for my next 10 years, but I am hoping that I will be working in project management in 10 years' time, hopefully in the apprenticeship field in the NHS, I would be bringing through a new generation of apprentices in some form!

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What tips do you have for people who want to do the same apprenticeship as you?

My main tip for people looking to do the same apprenticeship as me would be to make sure you understand the time commitment, both at work and in your social life, that an apprenticeship requires. If your work isn't going to allow you enough time to study, and you aren't willing to make adjustments to your social life to complete assignments and study, then you will struggle. I would also say to make sure you are enthusiastic about the subject area you choose!