

# FEATURED APPRENTICE

## BECKIE TWINNEY

### NURSING ASSOCIATE APPRENTICESHIP



**Royal United Hospitals Bath**  
NHS Foundation Trust

**Meet Beckie Twinney a Level 5  
Nursing Associate apprentice  
working at Bath Royal United  
Hospital on the Surgical  
Admissions Unit.**

We spoke with Beckie about her  
journey to become a Nursing  
Associate apprentice, keep reading  
to find out.

### WHAT APPRENTICESHIP ARE YOU STUDYING AND WHAT DOES THE STUDY INVOLVE?

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I am currently studying for the Trainee Nursing Associate (TNA) apprenticeship. The study involves a mixture of theory provided by the University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) and practical placement experience within my ward and other locations both internally and externally of the hospital.

The theory is provided during 7.5 hour study days which are paid for by my employer. I then use this theory to complete assignments, exams and observed simulations to support my practical skills. Simultaneously, I work with a mentor on my ward to establish any additional practical skills or competencies which need developing before I qualify as a registered practitioner.

I have previously also completed my Level 3 Diploma in Healthcare Support apprenticeship and my Care Certificate whilst being employed at Bath RUH. Both of these qualifications were required for entry on to the Trainee Nursing Associate apprenticeship.

### WHAT DOES YOUR JOB ROLE INVOLVE?

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Whilst completing my apprenticeship, my job role varies depending on the shift. Some days I will be included within the staffing numbers as a Healthcare Assistant, performing any tasks required by the patients in my care such as personal hygiene, hydration/nutrition, assistance to mobilise or reposition and tending to any other personal needs as well as tasks delegated to me by the registered nurse. Other days I will be supernumerary which means that I will be shadowing the registered nurse and performing medication rounds under supervision as well as developing my clinical skills such as venepuncture, cannulation or catheterisation.

In addition, my role also involves completing study days and independent learning as required, as well as placements within the different fields of nursing: adult, mental health, paediatrics and learning disabilities. These placements may be within the hospital, near to the patient's home, or within the patient's home depending on the team I am working with. Regardless of where I am based, the main priority of my role remains the same: to provide holistic care and maintain the patient's safety. Because of this, the actual duties of my role will vary considerably depending on the needs of the patient I am caring for at that time.

### WHY DID YOU WANT TO DO AN APPRENTICESHIP?

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By completing this qualification as an apprenticeship, I have the support of my employer to ensure that my clinical skills are being developed throughout my training as required whilst also ensuring that I am provided with the necessary time to complete my theory learning. This also allows me to continue earning as my employer continues to pay my salary inclusive of my theory learning days which took any financial pressure away.

### WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ONCE YOU QUALIFY?

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Once I complete my current apprenticeship and qualify as a Nursing Associate, I am going to complete the preceptorship programme being offered by my employer as this will give me the opportunity to continue developing my skills whilst I adjust to my new role as a registered practitioner. I also hope to complete the final stage of the full nursing degree either as a full-time student or as an apprentice if my employer is able to offer this in the future.