

FEATURED APPRENTICE

ELAINE WILSON NURSING ASSOCIATE APPRENTICESHIP



Torbay and South Devon
NHS Foundation Trust

Meet Elaine Wilson a Level 5 Nursing Associate apprentice working at Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust.

We spoke with Elaine about her journey as a Nursing Associate apprentice working in the Intensive Care Unit, keep reading to find out.

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

I finished my Nursing apprenticeship in July 2020 following the completion of the Assistant Practitioner (Health) apprenticeship which were both through Plymouth University.

WHY DID YOU WANT TO DO AN APPRENTICESHIP?

I had already progressed as far as I could within my previous post and felt I could do more. The apprenticeship ticked all the boxes for me personally and really was my only option to consider training further. Knowing I would be salaried/funded and remain employed by the trust gave me financial security, without losing my long service enhancements (having worked for over 20 years within the trust already). The team were able to delegate my placements within the local area where I live and kept me close to the trust I am familiar with, meaning commuting would be minimal and all the policies and procedures I was aware of remained the same. Upon completion it was a straight-forward transition from student to qualified or due-to-qualify contract compared to a brand new member coming into the trust for the first time.

WHAT DOES YOUR JOB ROLE INVOLVE?

My current post involves looking after the critically ill patients, predominantly one-to-one nursing. This requires a good understanding of multi-organ function, airway management, interpreting blood gas information and electrolyte balance, amongst many other practical tasks. It's also important to be aware of working within your own remit as asking for assistance when needed could make a huge difference to patient survival rates. Working in this environment as the named nurse gives me the opportunity to provide all basic care and comfort for the patient, as well as managing the family and relatives (when visiting).

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ONCE YOU QUALIFY?

While I was training I tried to keep an open mind and just see what was out there and enjoy each area, until my ICU placement (end of year 2). This speciality and the supportive nature really caught my interest. I used my placement to approach the team and ultimately discuss if it was appropriate for me to apply and because of the apprenticeship and my personal experience I was encouraged to do so.