

# FEATURED APPRENTICE

## RICHARD BROOKS SENIOR HEALTHCARE SUPPORT WORKER



University Hospitals  
Plymouth  
NHS Trust

**Meet Richard Brooks, a Level 3 Senior Healthcare Support worker apprentice working at University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust.**

We spoke with Richard about his journey as a SHCSW apprentice working nights in the CT scanner that is part of the emergency department.

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

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I have just finished my Level 3 qualification as a senior healthcare support worker following the adult nursing pathway. The studying involved attendance of study days, completion of assignments, shadowing various different areas outside of my normal workplace to get a greater insight into other areas within the hospital, being observed in my normal working environment, a multiple choice examination, a question and answer session and finally a professional discussion regarding the portfolio I had produced.

### WHAT DOES YOUR JOB ROLE INVOLVE?

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My job role is assisting the radiographer to ensure that patients are scanned safely and efficiently, ensure all areas of the scanner are stocked adequately, answering the telephone to deal with queries regarding scans from doctors and keeping patients details accurate on our computer system. The role can be challenging and busy but I need to support the radiographer as it is just the two of us working overnight scanning patients from both the emergency department and from the hospital wards.

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

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I have completed the apprenticeship as I see this is a possible route to possibly going on to further education and no longer having my A level qualification certificates having completed these over 30 years ago the apprenticeship was another way to gain a qualification that would enable me to study further should I wish to do so.

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

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I am hoping that my trust will soon have in place the radiographer apprenticeship as this would be the ideal pathway for me to follow, however, if this is not going to be possible then I may have to consider undertaking the apprentice nurse degree course that is already being offered by my trust.