

FEATURED APPRENTICE

HONOR GOVAN NURSING ASSOCIATE APPRENTICESHIP



Gloucestershire Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Meet Honor Govan a Level 5 Nursing Associate apprentice working at Gloucester Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on Snowhill ward specialising in Acute Gastroenterology.

We spoke with Honor 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?

I became a Nursing Associate through the Higher Apprenticeship Nursing Associate pathway. A two-year course at The University of Gloucestershire saw me complete many modules focussing on both practical and theory. It gave me the opportunity to apply my learnt evidence to practice and to do so under supervision of registered professionals.

Alongside these modules I completed four base placements lasting 6 months each. Combined with the opportunity to partake in sixteen day spoken placements, within a variety of healthcare services around the county.

Now qualified, I am confident in implementing the skills learnt from a variety of settings throughout the course to provide the best individualised experience that I can for the patients in my care.

WHAT DOES YOUR JOB ROLE INVOLVE?

I am usually counted as the third registered nurse on shift. I am allocated my own patients that I oversee the care for on my shift and support healthcare assistants in delivering patient care.

In addition to this, I am a support to the other nursing staff and can utilise my skills and experience to assist where needed to allow registered nurses to attend to patients for example, to give intravenous medication or to access central lines.

WHY DID YOU WANT TO DO AN APPRENTICESHIP?

I was previously a Health care assistant on a Care of the elderly ward with no experience anywhere but that speciality for 5 years. The apprenticeship gave me an opportunity to work within a trust that I was familiar with, whilst gradually bringing me out of my comfort zone to make me a more well-rounded confident professional.

As a Trainee Nursing Associate, unlike student nurses, you are within the Health Care Assistant numbers meaning that the time to practice as a Nursing Associate under supervision is limited.

However, this position allowed me to learn how to manage priorities and to appreciate the support of the wider multidisciplinary team. I was able to observe the nurses and notice how they made decisions in care and how they would affect outcomes for the patient and increase patient safety. I began to look at my role differently and even started becoming more confident in myself.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ONCE YOU QUALIFY?

I was absolutely inspired by my gastroenterology placement and how the entire team worked together to achieve what was best for each patient. A fascinating, varied placement focusing on conditions from the liver to the colon found me becoming more interested in the speciality. As a result I am now working within this very same team. My goal would be to complete the nursing apprenticeship and should the opportunity arise become a specialist nurse within gastroenterology.