

FEATURED APPRENTICE

LEONA RENSHAW

ACCOUNTANCY / TAXATION PROFESSIONAL APPRENTICE



**Meet Leona Renshaw an
Income and Contracts
Assistant and an
apprenticeship success
story.**

Leona has been working at Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust since 2014. We spoke to Leona about her apprenticeship journey. Keep reading to find out more.

Leona, when did you start working for Sherwood Hospital NHS Foundation Trust?

I studied accounting at Ashfield Sixth Form college and as a result began to look for jobs in the accounting field. The first job I applied for was as a Finance Apprentice at Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and I was successful in my application. I started working at the trust in September 2014.

Could you tell us about your apprenticeship journey?

I undertook a Level 2 Business Administration apprenticeship framework with Prostart as the provider. During this time, I obtained a substantive Band 2 post in the Accounts Payable team. They supported me to continue with my Business Administration apprenticeship and in September 2016 I went on to do my Level 3 Business Administration apprenticeship. I was nominated as Apprentice of the Year in 2017 at the Prostart Annual Awards. I enjoyed undertaking these apprenticeships and particularly valued the IT section of the apprenticeship as I found this particularly useful.

During this period I was seconded into a band 3 role as an Accounts Payable Officer and then I successfully applied for a post that became available in the Management Accounts department which was a permanent Band 3. As a result I began my Level 3 Assistant Accountant apprenticeship standard. This included the AAT (Association of Accounting Technicians) course Level 2/3. I was on their fast track scheme, due to my practical experience. I was supported with this qualification by Vision West Notts College and attended day release. I completed the AAT in spring 2019 and was awarded a Merit for the AAT and a Distinction for the whole apprenticeship. I was also nominated for a national apprenticeship award during this time.

In March 2019 I successfully obtained a Band 4 post as Income and Contracts Assistant with the Trust. I started a Level 4 Professional Accounting or Taxation Technician apprenticeship which includes Level 4 AAT, again with Vision West Notts College. I took advantage of some evening classes that they provide with a view to students completing their qualification a bit earlier, should they wish to. I felt well supported by them and appreciate the flexibility that they offer. Although I had taken on the evening classes I was under no pressure to do so. They are offered if people want to use them to increase their progress so I found it quite enjoyable. The college very much fits around the learners so they are at the heart of their own learning journey. I completed the Level 4 Professional Accounting or Taxation Technician apprenticeship in December 2020, I was awarded a merit.

On January 4th 2022, I started a Level 7 Accountancy / Taxation Professional apprenticeship standard, studying with Kaplan Financial Limited in Nottingham.

How have you benefitted from being able to undertake apprenticeships?

Since starting my career with the Trust, I have made good use of apprenticeships to help with my development and have found this to be an excellent way of making personal progress. I have found this way of developing very motivational and have felt it has suited me very well. My career will continue to progress and I am very ambitious to do well .

