

# Lucy Preene

## Level 3 Pharmacy Technician (integrated)

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals   
NHS Foundation Trust

### Level 3 Pharmacy Technician (Integrated)

You can access the standard [here](#).

Pharmacy Technicians are registered professionals working within the regulatory standards for pharmacy, as set by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) Pharmacy Order 2010. They work in a wide range of settings, including (but not exclusively): registered pharmacies, community services, justice (the Prison Service), GP Practices, dispensing doctors' practices, care homes and clinical commissioning groups, hospitals, mental health, defence (HM Armed Services) and within the pharmaceutical industry. Pharmacy technicians manage the supply of medicines and devices in a pharmacy and assist pharmacists with advisory services.

Meet Lucy Preene, a Level 3 Pharmacy Technician (integrated) apprentice working at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

We spoke with Lucy about her apprenticeship journey, keep reading to find out more.



## **1. What apprenticeship are you studying and what does it involve?**

I am currently studying a Level 3 Pharmacy Technician (integrated) apprenticeship.

I complete a day and a half study each week covering biology, chemistry and pharmacy practice. I write assignments for the academic work as well as complete rotational placements with associated competencies in hospital pharmacy departments across several sites at Sheffield Teaching Hospital – General Dispensary, Stores and Procurement, Homecare. I am currently on placement shadowing Medicines Management Technicians. I also have planned rotations in Aseptics, Cancer Services as well as returning to Dispensaries.

Being a rotational position, my workplace mentor changes every time I move locations. Having a mentor at each place was very beneficial as I was able to gain an understanding of how the place works and was able to set goals with them about what I wished to get out of each rotation and was supported by them to achieve these.

## **2. Why did you want to do the apprenticeship?**

I liked the idea of working whilst studying for a career, and so I applied to science-based apprenticeships, and this job role appealed to me most.

I am one of 9 Sheffield student technicians in my college cohort, with 22 in other cohorts. This allows for a supportive learning environment in each placement, helping each other and providing mutual support and guidance for assignments.

## **3. What is your current role?**

Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacy Technician.

## **4. How did you get into your current role?**

I left sixth form to go to university, and soon realised the style of learning didn't suit me. I came across NHS apprenticeships and this role suited both my interest in science and my desire to start a career in a subject I was interested in. I researched the role carefully for my application. Before interview I answered a calculation test to gauge my maths skills relating to dispensing medications and wrote a small essay relating to a question given by the Trust regarding the role. I submitted this before my interview.

## **5. What has been your proudest achievement on your apprenticeship to date?**

My responsibilities have increased vastly since I started the apprenticeship, Starting off shadowing members of staff to being trained and classed as competent. I am now able to work independently in all the placements I have had, as well as train other new starters. I have also developed my interpersonal skills due to working in a team environment, as well as a small amount of mentorship when training other members of staff. I am now more independent as a learner, and more confident when answering queries and dealing with other member of staff as well as patients and the public.

## **6. What do you want to do once you complete your apprenticeship?**

I am half way through my 2 year apprenticeship now. I like the dispensary work where I can finish my accuracy checking technician competencies. Then I hope to move to a Medicines Management Technician role, perhaps specialising in surgery or critical care wards as I think these are really interesting.

## **7. What would you say to someone considering an apprenticeship?**

It is a great opportunity to develop work-based skills in a supportive environment. In my role I can contribute to patient care, and the NHS provides many development opportunities to advance learning and skills.

### **The Pharmacy Technician Role typically includes the following:**

- **Providing safe and effective pharmacy services**
- **Supply medicines and devices to patients, whether on prescription or over the counter**
- **Achieving the best outcomes through a patient's medicines**
- **Assemble medicines for prescriptions**
- **Provide information to patients and other healthcare professionals.**
- **Manage areas of medicines supply such as dispensaries**
- **Supervise other pharmacy staff**
- **Answering customers questions face to face or by phone**
- **Pre-packing, assembling and labelling medicines**
- **Referring problems or queries to the pharmacist**