

**LAURA DICKINSON****ROMAN ROAD HEALTH CENTRE****Laura Dickinson**

**Laura Dickinson is undertaking a Level 5 Nursing Associate (NMC 2018) apprenticeship standard at Roman Road Health Centre.**

**We spoke to Laura recently about her experiences of undertaking an apprenticeship, keep reading to find out more.**

**What apprenticeship are you studying and what does the study involve?**

I am a Trainee Nurse Associate (TNA) which includes on the job training and day release to university, University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN).

**What is your current job role and how did you get into your current role?**

I am currently a Trainee Nursing Associate.

I have worked in Healthcare for a number of years and have lots of experience. I applied for the job when I saw that it was advertised. With working in a GP surgery my role differs quite a lot from the hospital setting. I perform regular health checks on patients with hypertension, diabetes, CKD (Chronic Kidney Disease), CHD (Coronary Heart Disease), learning disabilities etc. I use manual BP (Blood Pressure), perform ECGs (Electrocardiogram), perform venepuncture, Ear Irrigation and Spirometry, plus much more. I shadow many different health professionals and go on any training possible.

**What have been the biggest challenges?**

For me I struggle with the academic and research side, however I have been doing my research and asking for help when needed.

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

My proudest achievement so far is that I have been able to care more for my patients with the new knowledge that I have achieved through both my mentors and university lectures.

**What do you want to do once you complete your apprenticeship?**

I want to top up to a registered nurse and specialise in sexual health.

**What would you say to someone considering an apprenticeship?**

Go for it. You only live once, and this is the ideal opportunity to do something you love whilst being paid to learn.

**Do you have any final comments?**

Fantastic apprenticeship so far. My workplace have been so supportive and Uni lecturers are top level

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