

LUCY BREWES

Level 7 Academic Professional



We recently spoke to Lucy Brewes who is an Academic Professional apprentice with Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. She spoke about her experiences of undertaking an apprenticeship.

WHAT APPRENTICESHIP ARE YOU STUDYING?

I am studying the Level 7 Academic Professional apprenticeship. This is a teaching course at masters level including fellowship of the Higher Education Academy.

I have attended University for the theory and gathered lots of off-the-job learning working within the trust in my role.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BEST PART OF YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?

I have enjoyed a lot of aspects of my apprenticeship. Having the opportunity to gain such a respected qualification in higher education, whilst being paid and working in my job is the first positive. I am the second group of trust staff to complete this course and have found the support received has been invaluable. Many of the first group have been able to act as mentors and our senior education staff have provided protected time and supervision.

Being able to complete the course with colleagues from the trust has meant I have been able to not only make links with these teams for my role but have a supportive peer group to talk to throughout the whole time. It has been great to be able to have the opportunity to meet other individuals passionate about teaching and education for our staff and students and we plan to stay in contact and continue these important links.

From a personal perspective I was supported by the university to have a learning needs assessment and was able to get a diagnosis for ADHD, following this. This allowed me to be directed to any support services or reasonable adjustments I may need and has made a huge difference in my working and personal life.

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WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENT ON YOUR APPRENTICESHIP TO DATE?

The obvious achievement of gaining Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy, PGCAP (Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice) and the apprenticeship is something I am proud of, however, I have been encouraged to use my new knowledge and skills in my current job role. In doing so I have implemented several projects and adaptations which I am really proud of.

One of these was to host an educational celebration event for Trainee Nursing Associates (TNA) working in our trust. In planning and holding this event I was able to apply my new knowledge and skills in practice. I was able to utilise my PGCAP team to support and was really proud that staff from both cohorts supported me to host this day for our hard-working TNA's.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE CONSIDERING AN APPRENTICESHIP?

Go for it! Many of us prefer to learn "on the job" and for me this was a great way to put all the knowledge I have been getting into practice.

There is a lot of support available, from your employer to apprentice teams and even the government who have resources you can look into. Apprenticeships can be hard work, but completing one reflects your ability, commitment, and development without the costs of courses.



**Learn more about the Level 7
Academic Professional
apprenticeship standard.**