



## MATEUSZ BAT

Sandwell and West Birmingham  
Hospitals NHS Trust

### CURRENT ROLE

I currently work as a junior rotational Physiotherapist within general medicine; hence my work can vary significantly from day to day as my patient caseloads can cover respiratory, geriatric, cardiology or haematology wards.

I have recently also been fortunate enough to successfully extend my practice at a private physiotherapy clinic, where I am expanding my clinical skills in a highly specialist hydrotherapy setting.

### WHY DID YOU WANT TO UNDERTAKE THE HIGHER DEVELOPMENT AWARD?

Upon finding out about the higher development award during my time in community reablement, I saw it as a potential tool for future professional development and as a way to enhance my CV to increase my competitiveness for senior roles in clinical leadership within the NHS.

Having aspirations not only in clinical practice but also for change and innovation of healthcare services imposes a requirement for ongoing professional development and education hence my ongoing motivation to continue with the higher development award.

Ultimately, I hope to gain insight into the values and behaviours of outstanding leaders, as well as the orchestration of project delivery, in attempt to replicate these myself and guide people into advancing future healthcare provision in an era of digitalisation in the NHS.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PHYSIOTHERAPIST & HIGHER DEVELOPMENT AWARD:

<https://haso.skillsforhealth.org.uk/standards/#standard-432>

<https://haso.skillsforhealth.org.uk/higher-development-award/>

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#### HOW DID YOU GET INTO YOUR CURRENT ROLE?

A long-standing passion for exercise, combined with personal value-driven aspirations in healthcare, ultimately led towards my first NHS role as a Re-ablement Team Lead within an emergency community rehabilitation service. It was during this time that I first set my sights on becoming a Physiotherapist after working closely with the therapy team across the Central London Rapid Response Service. In fact, it was also through this role that I applied for the Level 3 ILM Leadership and Management course, which I am currently progressing to a Level 5.

Following numerous applications and shadowing experiences, I managed to secure a position on the MSc (pre-reg) Physiotherapy course at Birmingham City University where I had the opportunity to progress my clinical skills in patient care and rehabilitation. After incredibly challenging yet highly rewarding and maturing 2-years, I successfully qualified as a healthcare professional and soon after began my first junior rotational post at the Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust. At present I am coming to the final weeks of my first rotation in general medicine, and eagerly looking forward to my next rotation in the Rapid Response Service – which despite being a somewhat familiar environment for myself, will be a highly educational experience as I'll now have the opportunity to contribute to a dynamic and fast-paced service from a qualified perspective.



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#### HOW HAVE YOU BENEFITTED FROM COMPLETING THE HIGHER DEVELOPMENT AWARD?

Since my admission to the course, the higher development award has brought a multitude of benefits to the relatively early stages of my career. My participation in the course itself has been a main talking point in almost every interview I was invited to for either professional or educational opportunities.

An understanding of the theory surrounding leadership and management has undeniably improved my conduct with the wider multidisciplinary team at work and helped me better understand my role within the NHS as an autonomous clinician. I often find myself recalling course content pertaining to teaching and learning styles when educating physiotherapy students on clinical placements, which I feel has supported me in becoming a better educator through tailoring my approach accordingly to each student's needs. Overall, the Higher Development Award is a source of pride and confidence for my career progression, given its role in distinguishing my portfolio from that of my peers.

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Surprisingly, it wasn't until after I qualified as a healthcare professional and found myself working autonomously within a clinical setting, that I began to recognise the additional personal value completion of Higher Development Award had brought.

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Completion of the module assignments necessitated copious self-reflection and goal setting, which despite its challenges at times, enabled a noticeable amount of personal growth not only as a professional but also as a colleague. Most notably, modules pertaining to 'emotional intelligence in leadership' really helped me to build my confidence and work and ultimately begin to make more valuable contributions to multidisciplinary patient care.

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#### WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENT TO DATE?

To date, graduating as a Physiotherapist with a first-class honour has been my proudest achievement. By extension, reaching a position which I've pursued for the past 3 years that allows me to build a promising career from a profession so deeply rooted in my own personal interests has and continues to be an extremely rewarding experience. The impact the Higher Development Award potentiates on my future within the NHS therefore makes this course incredibly special to me, and excites me as to the fruit it may bear in the later stages of my career.



#### WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO NOW THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE HIGHER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Following the completion of the Higher Development Award, I have decided to progress my studies by pursuing the Level 5 ILM Leadership and Management diploma. I hope this diploma, accompanied by further learning in information technology, will facilitate progression into a clinical informatics role where I'll be able to utilise my clinical experience to improve hospital standard operating procedures or services in general through the use of innovative technologies. I feel the course content and insight into the leadership and management of people in complex organisations will again help distinguish myself amongst national NHS roles dedicated to improving healthcare standards across the country.