



Northumbria Healthcare

NHS Foundation Trust

Meet the apprentice

We are introducing to you **Scarlett Richardson**, a Healthcare Support Worker apprentice at Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

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How did you get your apprenticeship?

When I got this Apprenticeship, I had just turned 16 and finished my GCSE'S so didn't really know what I wanted to do next. I was at Ashington College studying Level 2 Health and Social Care and realised I didn't enjoy it. I was constantly studying and although some people learn more when they study, I take in more information when I am on the job training. At College they could only offer me 1 day a week at placement, so I knew then that I needed to look for something else to do. I looked on NHS Jobs for Apprenticeships and the Healthcare Apprenticeship popped up so I applied for it straight away. I knew I wanted to have a career in healthcare, so I felt this was the best way to learn hands-on.

2 Who is your training provider and what is the study model like?

My training provider is Northumbria Healthcare. I work 5 days a week, Monday to Friday. I work 7.30-3.30, a normal early shift. Four of those days are on the Ward doing on-the-job training, and the remaining day is spent in the Hospital's Education Centre doing my Coursework.

3 What has been the hardest part?

The hardest part for me was getting used to the working day and getting used to the Ward's routines. I was the youngest in my group and I had just finished my GCSE'S so I hadn't had experience on having a job or going to sixth form. I didn't know what to expect. It was hard getting used to 7.30am starts instead of 9am starts.

4 What types of things have you been doing in your off-the-job learning?

In my off-the-job learning I complete my coursework. When I finish my coursework early I go back to my Ward to help out. Occasionally there are away days where we go somewhere other than the hospital and get lectures in different topics of our Apprenticeship. For example, we went on an away day to learn about safeguarding.

5 What has been the best part?

The best part has been learning on-the-job, I feel that my coursework is more in-depth and accurate because I have actually experienced what I am writing about instead of trying to imagine it. I have seen things that Healthcare Assistants may not be able to see on a day-to-day basis, for example I have seen a few operations and because I was training I was able to watch, if I was not training I would not be able to do this. Also I have been able to see the job from many different points of view such as Nurses, Healthcare Assistants, Physiotherapists, Dietitians and Occupational Therapists because I work alongside them. It gives me an insight into different jobs that I may want to pursue in the future or know a bit more about.

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What do you hope to do next?

I have recently been successful in applying for a full-time Nursing Assistant post and I am also on the Staff Bank. Whilst having my Band 2 Job, I am looking into undertaking my Level 3 Healthcare Support Worker Apprenticeship as well, as this is equivalent to A-levels. I am also looking into doing an Access to Nursing course at Ashington College. Eventually I would love to do my Nursing Degree at Northumbria University and I know what qualifications I need to get there, I know that I am on the right track to having a lifelong career in the NHS.

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What tips do you have for people who want to do the same apprenticeship as you?

Take every opportunity you are given because once you have a Job, you won't be able to.