



St Peter & St James Hospice
Hospice care in the heart of Sussex

Meet the apprentice

We are introducing to you **Faye Bravant**, a Nursing Associate apprentice at St Peter & St James Hospice.

1

How did you get your apprenticeship?

I was working as a Healthcare Assistant at St Peter and St James hospice when I read about the apprenticeship scheme to train to become a Nurse associate. I asked the Director of Care if she would support me in applying for the course at Brighton University and she said yes!

2

What is the study model like and what types of things have you been doing in your off-the-job learning?

I go to Brighton University one day a week and then work an average of 30 hours a week at the hospice. That said, over two years I undertake 675 hours of external placements in four different healthcare settings and during this time I am not at the hospice. I then spend approximately 10 hours a week on independent study going up to around 20 hours nearer exams/ final assessment weeks. I have been doing lots of online training and independent study whilst I am on placement to gain more in-depth knowledge about the typical injuries or conditions that I am helping with.

3

What has been the hardest part?

Juggling work, home life and studying, there just aren't enough hours in the day especially around assessment weeks. In addition, as it is a new apprenticeship programme people don't necessary understand the type and the level of work involved.

4

What has been the best part?

Being exposed to new situations in new healthcare settings. Meeting lots of different people at Uni and sharing our experiences and having the chance to learn more about a role I am passionate about.

5

What do you hope to do next?

I would like to qualify as a Nurse Associate and obtain my pin from the NMC.

6

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

Embrace placements, make contact with your mentor before you start and arrange a meeting. It helps overcome anxieties and deals with practicalities such as shifts and breaks! Accept that this is a challenging course and for two years you will have to devote a large majority of your free time to it.