

Apprenticeships Case Study

Kelly Wilson

Occupational Therapy Degree



What prompted you to become an apprentice/apply for your apprenticeship?

I had attempted the BSC Occupational Therapy degree at the age of 18, due to personal circumstances I was unable to complete the course. Since then, I have worked in various teams as a Therapy Assistant under the direction and supervision of Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists. I have always regretted not completing my degree, I love working within therapy, but I never had the confidence or finances available to try again. It was only when I started with Bridgewater Community trust that I got the support I needed. I had an amazing manager who believed in me and prompted me to make the decision to go back to university, her support in finding a course that fitted in with a full-time job is the reason I am an apprentice.

Tell us about your role, what does a typical day look like?

As a Therapy Assistant, we have our own caseload of patients to visit and ensure equipment that has been ordered by the Therapist is appropriate. Working within a crisis team means we are not always able to work through our caseload as we are needed as a second person to respond to crisis calls. As an apprentice, I am learning to take more of a lead role with supervision and guidance, when attending visits with the Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists. This allows me to develop my knowledge and understanding of my future role and set myself realistic learning targets with my mentor.

What is the best thing about your apprenticeship?

The apprenticeship allows me to study for my degree alongside working full-time hours, meaning I can still earn a living and not have financial stress. It also means I am not alone, working within a team with Occupational Therapists doing the same job I am studying for, provides me with so much support and guidance which is very encouraging.

What would you say to others thinking about an apprenticeship?

Take the opportunity while you have it.