

Apprenticeships Case Study

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Podiatry Degree Apprenticeship
Podiatry



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

I have been a podiatry assistant for 4 years and have absolutely loved my role. As my confidence in the role grew, I realised I wanted to be more hands on, have more responsibility and expand my knowledge and clinical skills. I did not want to leave my current role to pursue my degree through the usual route therefore I approached the education team and my line manager, who agreed to support me to access the apprenticeship route. This has allowed me to continue with my podiatry assistant duties and learn new skills on the job.

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

I am currently a second-year student and attend university 2 days per week, I have a clinical placement day 1 day per week, and the remainder of the week is my usual working role.

At university I am learning new skills and piecing together my baseline knowledge to get a better understanding and learning new things. During my clinical placement day, I collaborate with a qualified podiatrist. I greet the patient and complete a full assessment to determine any contraindications to my treatment, then I conduct the treatment according to the individuals needs. The podiatrist is on hand for any problems that may arise or anything I feel unconfident or not yet competent to complete. The podiatrists I have been working with have been incredibly supportive and I have enjoyed gaining new skills and being assisted on improving my debriding techniques.

What is the best thing about your apprenticeship?

The ability to continue learning even when university has finished for half term or summer breaks. I can continue to practice my clinical skills under guidance and continue helping patients.

What would you say to others thinking about an apprenticeship?

Go for it!!

Yes, it is stressful at times trying to juggle work, studies, and like me, a family. However, having firsthand experience and exposure to new things, that may not be available through the usual undergraduate route, is invaluable. I feel it has given me a head start above the other students, plus, the added support you have from your colleagues is invaluable too.