

## Case Study – Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship

*We caught up with Sophie Kershaw who is currently undertaking the Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship. Here's what she had to say about her journey.*

Hello 😊 my name is Sophie, I am 25 years old, and I am currently undertaking the RNDA (Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship) with support from BSOL training Hub.

Originally, I worked within the practice as an HCA (Health Care Assistant), this was the first time I had worked in a patient facing role and at the time was unsure what I wanted to do career wise

After time spent in the role, I realised I enjoyed caring for patients and building relationships with them and became interested in nursing. I enjoyed my role as an HCA but decided I wanted to develop further and build on my clinical skills and knowledge. I expressed this to my manager, and we arranged to meet with BSOL Training Hub to discuss the option of the TNA (Trainee Nursing Associate) role.

BSOL Training Hub were very supportive and guided me and my manager through the process of applying for the TNA role and explained what this would consist of. They then arranged an interview with BCU (Birmingham City University), and I got a place on the TNA course.

The TNA course consisted of theory hours spent at university, time spent working at the practice as well as placement hours.

When working at the GP practice, so many hours per week were set aside as 'protected learning hours', meaning I could spend this time with various health care professionals to help develop my knowledge and skills. As I spent more time with Registered Nurses (RN's) with specialities in different areas, I was able to gain new clinical skills and began to expand on the types of appointments I was able to offer.



In addition, every 12 weeks I had a meeting with my lead nurse and my personal tutor from the University so that we could see how I was getting on and discuss any further development needs. The RNs in practice also provided me with continuous feedback, complete ongoing assessments and sign off my clinical skills proficiencies. BCU arranged placements for me, I worked in various areas across BSOL such as Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust, Solihull Hospital, Queen Elizabeth and Birmingham's Children's hospital. As well as various departments such as Theatres, Oncology, Acute care, Mental Health Inpatients, Dialysis Unit and Surgical wards.

The Nurse Associate role is not field specific, and therefore placements include cross-field experiences, which aligns well with working in Primary care as we come in to contact with patients from all 4 fields of nursing. The placements I had really helped me to gain a better understanding of nursing care across the lifespan as well as helping develop my clinical knowledge, skills and confidence.

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University helped me to learn about the theory behind nursing care, gain knowledge of evidence-based practice, research, fundamental nursing values, academic writing, medication management, and help prepare me for becoming a registrant on the NMC register.

After completing the course and receiving my NMC Nurse Associate pin, I have been able to do further training which enables me to again deliver more appointments in practice.

The Nurse Associate Apprenticeship gave me a well-rounded nursing education with lots of support. It also opened opportunities for further development. Doing the course and having the various placement opportunities made me develop a passion for nursing.

I again contacted BSOL Training Hub expressing that I wanted to develop further, and they arranged an interview with BCU for the RNDA course. I am currently around 6 months into the RNDA course, it is a similar lay-out to the TNA course. The RNDA course consists of placements and theory and upon completion you finish with a Bachelor of Science in Adult Nursing. I think the apprenticeship is a great route into nursing, I have received a lot of support and have no regrets.



**Interested in the Registered  
Nurse Degree Apprenticeship**

Contact the BSol Training Hub.

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