

NHS FINANCE UNDERGRADUATE WORK PLACEMENTS

COME AND EXPERIENCE ONE OF THE LARGEST, MOST INNOVATIVE AND
COMPLEX NETWORK OF ORGANISATIONS IN THE WORLD

One-year placements located at various NHS Organisations throughout the East of England and London (Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk & Suffolk and Central & East London)

About the Placements

Have you ever wondered how much an operation costs, how the NHS finds the money to build a new hospital, why we have waiting lists, or how much it costs to keep an ambulance on the road? If your answer is yes, then the NHS Finance Function may be an option for you.

There are over 50 NHS Organisations in the East of England and several of them offer one year Finance Placements for undergraduates studying finance related degrees, we also link with NHS NEL Commissioning Support Unit to offer some placements in Central and East London. This diverse range of NHS Organisations includes Hospitals, Mental Health Trusts, Community Healthcare Providers, Health Education, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Area Teams and Commissioning Support Units.

A year in NHS finance gives you an opportunity to put what you are learning at university into practice, in a real life situation where your work contributes to patient care.

The NHS has a large annual budget and the NHS Finance Function must be expert in the financial planning, analysis, management and control of those funds to ensure the efficient use of public money. You could be part of a team that has a vital role to play in supporting the delivery of world class healthcare.

We are seeking undergraduates to join us who:

- Have good communication skills
- Can work as a member of a team
- Are good at planning and organising
- Demonstrate an interest in figures and financial calculations
- Can assimilate complex information
- Have ambition and are highly motivated
- Enjoy a challenge and are keen to take on responsibilities

Placements will be for 12 months, commencing summer 2017. There is a salary of over £15k per annum, depending on location.

You will get on-going support from your line manager and colleagues, and opportunities for training and development throughout the year. Experience gained throughout the placement can contribute towards future CIPFA, CIMA, ACCA or ICAEW practical experience requirements. After the placement you will be in a strong position to apply for a place on the NHS Graduate Scheme, or to apply directly for finance related jobs in the NHS.



Case Study

Placements vary from one organisation to another – as there are several different types of NHS organisation. But here is what one undergraduate – who is now a third of the way through her placement – has to say:

“I chose the NHS Finance Undergraduate Work Placement for two reasons: The first was that my accounting modules at university made me realise that this was something I could get into. I wanted a placement which would allow me to learn more about finance, but there are hundreds of companies which offer this – so why pick the NHS? In short, because it is a job that makes a difference. I felt a strong pull towards the NHS because it meant that the work I do, even if it is behind the scenes in an office, has a real impact on peoples’ lives.

Within the first few months here I have been given so much responsibility, which really allows me to test my ability and learn in a more hands on way. Whilst the theory you study in a university lecture is good, actually applying this knowledge in practice helps it to sink in and gives a much better understanding of accounting processes.

Part of my role at the moment is managing a budget. This involves making journals using double entry, working out forecasts and phasing budgets throughout the year. These are all skills that will be examined in my final year at university, so I am sure that this placement will make my studies next year easier.



So far I am thoroughly enjoying my time at the NHS. The work is interesting, the people are friendly and there is always an opportunity to learn something new. I would definitely recommend this placement to anyone looking to get into finance, because everyone in my team is so supportive and willing to help. When I first arrived I thought I would be a nuisance if I kept asking questions, but I couldn't have been more wrong – all my colleagues are eager to make sure this is the most beneficial experience possible.”

How to Apply

For further information and to apply go to: www.nhsfinancecareers.com

The closing date for applications is Sunday 29 January 2017

What do we look for in an application?

- Make sure your application is fully completed, neat and accurate. Remember we are looking for people with an eye for detail.
- Think about the locations you choose on the application form. Obviously, the more flexible you can be, the more opportunities that will give you – but you also need to be realistic about your daily commute or whether you are willing to re-locate for the year.
- We are keen to recruit people with a long term interest in the NHS and an interest in qualifying as an accountant.
- Tell us about your work experience and IT skills (especially spreadsheets).
- Your application should be well written, with the NHS in mind. Show that you've done some research – you can find out more about the NHS in general at www.dh.gov.uk and more about NHS Finance at www.skillsdevelopmentnetwork.com.
- Remember that you have got lots of competition, but you probably also have a lot to offer the NHS.