

Can you offer a Chester University work based learning placement?

8th May - 9th June 2017

What is work based learning?

As part of their programme of study, Chester University's second year undergraduates have the opportunity to engage in a five week work placement. This can provide an insight into a future career and introduces them to target setting and reflection whilst contributing to the work of their provider.

Details:

- Five week unpaid placement from **8th May 9th June 2017***
- Involve a student in the organisation like a regular employee
- Agree student's placement objectives to reflect the role and tasks
- Provide any reasonable adjustments for those with disabilities/SEN
- Conduct an appraisal

*150 hours minimum over no less than five weeks (workload and work pattern to be negotiated between the individual and manager)

How can you benefit

- An extra pair of hands for busy periods
- Get a fresh perspective and new ideas
- Students can take responsibility for a particular project or task
- Help to develop the workforce of the future
- Development opportunities for our staff



Steve Gregg-Rowbury – our Head of HR and Wellbeing Business Services

“I studied for a Degree in Business Studies at Chester University between 2005 and 2008 and as part of the final year I opted for a six week work-based learning placement in the HR department here at the Countess. Whilst I was on placement I was lucky enough to gain experience in a number of areas, originally I thought HR was just employment law and specialist advice, but I quickly realised there was more on offer.

I graduated from university and like most students I was thinking about what I would do that summer (let alone a career path) so I contacted the HR department and joined the bank in 2008. I worked initially in the Recruitment team as an assistant, mainly filing personnel records, but was lucky enough to achieve a fixed-term post in Payroll a few months later. Over the following three years I worked on a number of HR related projects and became a Service Development Specialist as we created the HR & Wellbeing Shared Service in July 2011. A large part of my role was project managing Trust-wide systems for HR so I had an exciting opportunity to meet a lot of service leads and experience life outside the HR department.

In 2013 I left the Countess for a fixed-term role as a regional Account Manager for the NHS Electronic Staff Record, which subsequently I became a Senior Account Manager overseeing the whole of the North & Midlands. Two years later the opportunity arose for me to return back to the Countess as Head of HR & Wellbeing Business Services.

I didn't plan a career in HR but I'm extremely glad I called the team to join the bank in 2008. It gave me a good foundation of what the department was like and what opportunities were available, which I hadn't ever realised before. I would thoroughly recommend the work placement opportunities to any student as it has proved to be a very rewarding few years since I left University.”



Our very own Jenni Millard started her Countess career as a placement student

Jenni studied a combined degree at Chester University, in Fine Art with Time, Lens and Film based media and graduated in 2005.

As part of her work placement in her second year, she approached our Medical Photography department and was successful in gaining a placement here. Following graduation she applied for a trainee medical photographer role with us and studied for a postgraduate degree in medical photography.

Jenni's role requires her to produce accurate and objective images that record injuries and diseases, as well as the progress of operations and medical procedures. Her work is then used for measurement and analysis of patients, to accompany medical or scientific reports, articles or research papers. They can also be used for educational purposes or for use in solicitors reports or medico-legal cases.

Jenni said *“I really enjoy my job; every day is different. It's not always easy however to do the role of medical photographer successfully you cannot be squeamish. Occasionally I am called to document vital information from patients in variety of different circumstances, these sensitive duties require me to obtain clear, accurate images in somewhat emotive and difficult circumstances. Although in a non-direct way, it is very satisfying that I'm working to ultimately help patients get better. Wedding and landscape photography can be beautiful – but the knowledge that I am playing an active role in a person's healthcare or aiding research into diseases and treatments is a great feeling.”*





“It does involve staff time and commitment to training.”

“We met informally to explain the work and ensure that it met their expectations.”

“Time devoted to training should ultimately benefit you, as the students become competent to assist staff.”

Kathleen is the Pathology Quality Manager and the Pathology Department offers two opportunities for Medical Laboratory Assistants in Pathology each year.

“The pathology department comprises of two departments; Blood Sciences and Cellular Pathology. The students assist and observe the biomedical scientists in the same capacity as a biomedical support worker within each department. This may include helping with the processing of patient samples.

We are glad to be able to support this work based learning programme and have had some fantastic students come through the doors, many of whom have continued working with us. I would recommend these placements to other teams at the Countess.”

How to get involved



If your department is interested in offering a placement from 8 May – 9 June, please contact Molly Whelan in Learning and Development who will send you a placement offer form. This form will be used to outline the role or project the student will undertake over the five weeks.

Once received the university will send the roles out to the students and will coordinate the shortlisting and matching process. Once names are confirmed the applicants will contact you directly with their CV and covering letter.

All students will need to attend an interview and to agree on their placement objectives prior to their university induction programme on 2nd May.

Thanks to everyone in the Trust who has supported this programme to date and to the managers and teams that are going to start providing valuable opportunities for these students.

Please get in touch with Molly if you have any questions or need to know more.

Molly Whelan molly.whelan@nhs.net 01244 36 3438

