





Coming out of Sixth Form, I wasn't quite sure where to go next, the only thing that made absolute sense was to begin building experience in the workplace. Fortunately for my own indecision, an opportunity emerged as an Apprentice Finance Assistant working at Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (HUTH). This proved to be the best thing that has ever happened to me as it enabled me to both earn a qualification (at zero expense) and build valuable workplace experience – a win on both fronts. The particularly magical aspect of working at HUTH is there is not a sole facet to it. Yes, the industry is healthcare but on such a large scale that you get to experience many other "sub-industries" including finance, HR, engineering, and IT. Of course, the other treasured commodity is the fantastic support offered by the Education and Development team who will help you through what is a very difficult transition from education to work.

During my apprenticeship, I studied for and was able to achieve AAT which is an internationally recognised qualification meaning I was suitable for finance-based roles in many other sectors – not that there was a reason to leave as I was also able to see first-hand (and build experience doing) what my Senior Finance Officer colleagues were doing; meaning when the time was right, I had all I needed to be offered a role.

Following the completion of my apprenticeship, I continued to study with the support of HUTH and use the "ground floor" experience gained in the apprenticeship to progress my career. The Trust supported me to achieve my ACCA (chartered accountancy) qualification both with study support and people available to help talk me through any development challenges. 7 years and 4 promotions later, I now sit as the Finance Manager of our Imaging and Specialist Services division plus not forgetting to mention the COVID Vaccination Programme; and yet the experience gained during my apprenticeship continues to pay dividends. For anyone with a quiver of interest, I would wholeheartedly recommend the apprenticeship route and finance team at HUTH, it not only grows you professionally but personally too, and the value in that is immeasurable.



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