

**ANDREEA FESTEU**  
**NHS FINANCE GRADUATE STORY**  
**CHELSEA & WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST**

### CAREER JOURNEY

My journey within the NHS commenced in September 2020 when I joined Chelsea & Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust as a finance trainee during my university placement year. Pursuing a degree in Finance has led me to this experience in the NHS and has become pivotal in shaping my accounting career trajectory within the healthcare sector.

From my one-year Finance Placement, I seamlessly transitioned to a part-time role as a band 3 bank as I neared the completion of my degree. The Trust, recognizing my dedication and potential, extended the opportunity to evolve further. In January 2023, my commitment and dedication were recognized as I secured the role of band 5 Management Accountant at the West Middlesex University Hospital Site.

Graduating with a Bachelor's in Accounting and Financial Management in November 2022 marked a significant milestone. Keen on continuous professional development, I embarked on an ACCA apprenticeship last year, solidifying my commitment to becoming a fully qualified accountant.

My journey within the NHS has been dynamic, starting with a month in the Accounts Payable department during my trainee contract before seamlessly transitioning to the management accounting team. This transition not only provided practical experience across diverse financial tasks but also enriched my understanding of the healthcare services the NHS delivers.

Working within the Finance team at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has been a source of immense satisfaction. The emphasis on fostering working relationships and the plethora of opportunities for development and growth are what I find particularly rewarding. The Trust's supportive environment encourages proactive involvement, ensuring a fulfilling professional journey.

The organisation has demonstrated its commitment to facilitating optimal work performance by providing flexibility, enabling me to also work from home. This flexibility has been instrumental in managing responsibilities effectively. Furthermore, the collaborative and positive working relationship I share with my manager and the Finance team enhances the overall work experience.

From my placement year to my current role as a band 5 Management Accountant, my duties encompass a span of a spectrum of crucial financial tasks. From maintaining accurate accounting spreadsheets to running standard reports through different Reporting Systems, my duties contribute to the smooth functioning of the finance department. Additionally, providing training and supervision to new team members, ensuring a full audit trail for transactions, and responding to queries reflect my commitment to maintaining the integrity of financial processes.

As I look ahead, I am excited about the opportunities for further development and progression within the NHS. Chelsea & Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has not only been a workplace but a platform for my growth as a Finance professional, and I am eager to contribute to its ongoing success.