

BLAKE MIRANDA
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT
CHELSEA & WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

CAREER JOURNEY

During my pursuit of a degree in Accounting, I was delighted to commence my professional journey as a Finance Placement Student at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (CWFT) in September 2021. Currently, I hold the position of a Band 5 Management Accountant at CWFT, and I would like to share more about my experience.

Throughout my placement year, I had the incredible opportunity to work within the management accounting department, rotating through three diverse divisions: Emergency & Integrated Care, HIV/GUM, Neonatal & Women's Services. The managers in the department were exceptionally supportive, showing a genuine interest in my learning and development.

Under the mentorship of my managers, I excelled in various responsibilities which included preparing detailed narratives for variance and trend analysis, highlighting key drivers and substantial savings for budget holders. I actively participated in routine tasks, including investigating payroll reports, and managing transactions like invoicing. During month-end procedures, I made valuable contributions by handling adjustments for accruals and prepayments, ensuring accurate financial representation. These experiences have significantly enhanced my skills and provided me with a profound understanding of financial management in the dynamic healthcare sector. During my placement, I was encouraged by my managers to enhance my Microsoft Excel skills. I took the initiative to create a versatile budget re-allocation and reconciliation model for non-pay items. This model enables the investigation of year-to-date actuals against the budget, allowing for necessary pre-adjustments to accurately depict budget movement. This model is crucial for maintaining the budget plan before integration into our internal system SAP BI.

I enjoy working in NHS Finance because every employee shares a common ambition that is that we are determined to utilise our financial resources to invest in healthcare infrastructure which is crucial for staying at the forefront of medical innovation and improving patient outcomes and implement training programs for our staff to enhance the quality of services offered to our patients.

Upon completion of my degree, I was appointed into the role of a Management Accountant within the Central Finance Team at CWFT where my responsibilities include accurately recording financial transactions to maintain the integrity of the general ledger. I collaborate closely with diverse finance teams to ensure the timely completion of accurate financial reports within established deadlines. Additionally, I support the Financial Management team by providing detailed information regarding queried transactions in the General Ledger.

In my current role, I've developed a strong interest in technology, particularly in using business intelligence tools for efficient and robust reporting. The NHS offers comprehensive training on these tools, supporting our professional growth. The trust prioritises individual learning and development, evident in quarterly one-on-one meetings with the finance manager to set professional and learning goals. Additionally, the trust sponsors graduates like me to become qualified accountants with bodies like ACCA, CIMA, and CIPFA. The hybrid working model, including the option to work from home, adds flexibility to our work environment, creating a positive and accommodating atmosphere.

I am excited about the future and eager to see how my career develops within the Trust.