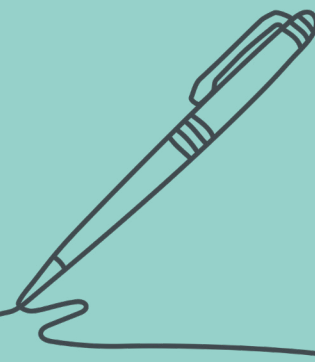


NHS FINANCE INSIGHTS PLACEMENT SCHEME

MIDLANDS MINI CASE STUDIES AND TESTIMONIALS



CASE STUDY 1

HARI SINGH, INSIGHTS TRAINEE

WEST MIDLANDS AMBULANCE SERVICE UNIVERSITY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST



Reflecting on my time in the NHS Finance Insights Scheme, I cannot help but feel an overwhelming sense of pride and gratitude. Growing up in a low socio-economic background, I faced many barriers and limited opportunities. Families like mine often don't have access to the same resources as others - whether it's quality education, extracurricular activities or even the basic tools needed for academic success. Financial constraints can make it difficult to pursue further education or career-building opportunities and the need to support my family sometimes meant I couldn't focus as much on my own career development.

The NHS Finance Insights scheme has been a game changer for me. The beauty of the scheme lies not just in the technical skills and insights it provides, but in the hope and empowerment it gives to those from disadvantaged

backgrounds. It offers a chance for people like myself to demonstrate our potential. And, most importantly, it gives us a platform to show that talent can come from all walks of life.

Even though I've only been in my current team since the beginning of this year, I feel as though I've already gained a wealth of experience. The first six months of this scheme, since September, have given me invaluable insight into NHS finance and a clearer sense of the goals I want to accomplish within this sector. As I move into the final six months of my placement, I am committed to giving it my all. I aim to make a meaningful impact on NHS finance, my manager's team, the scheme, and my colleagues. I'm excited about the opportunities that lie ahead, and I look forward to contributing even more to the success of the team and the wider NHS.

I believe this scheme is an incredible initiative for the NHS. It's about recognising that the potential to contribute meaningfully to this sector exists everywhere - even in places where it may have been overlooked before. It is about breaking down barriers and creating a workforce that truly reflects the diversity of our communities.

I hope I can be living proof that people from backgrounds like mine do deserve a chance. The NHS has made it possible for me to transform my career, and it's now my responsibility to show just how much this scheme means to me. I want to use my experiences to inspire others and to help the NHS continue to attract and nurture talent from diverse communities.

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CASE STUDY 2

TEGAN BEBB, INSIGHTS TRAINEE

THE SHREWSBURY AND TELFORD HOSPITAL NHS TRUST



My name is Tegan Bebb and I am currently over half way through my Insights placement in the Finance department at the Shrewsbury & Telford NHS Trust. There are over 100 people here and we are based off site in a Business Park outside Shrewsbury. My background is I did a BTEC in Business Studies at the local college and finished this knowing I wanted to go into something linked to Finance or Business. My careers advisor sent me the link to the Insight scheme and I was lucky to be accepted.

It was a big change for me coming into an office, as I had only worked in McDonalds before this. I found it quite scary, but everyone was really friendly and welcoming. We also have a group chat on Snapchat with the other placement students and a team meeting every month to catch up and swap experiences, so you know everyone else is going through the same thing.

I hadn't done much with Excel either before this so found this quite challenging, but the courses provided have been very useful, as well as on the job training. I started off in Financial Performance looking at budget reports and investigating variances, before moving to Financial Accounts to learn about Charitable Funds. Now I am in Payroll, which I really enjoy, and would love to pursue a career here when I finish the placement!

I'm over half way through my 12 months now and still have rotations into Income, Costing and Contracting to come. The good thing about the scheme is that it is for 12 months which gives you a chance to learn about all the different areas of Finance which are very, very different. I would recommend the scheme to anyone wishing to get an idea of what goes on in the finance department of your local NHS.

I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THIS INSIGHTS PLACEMENT TO ANYONE INTERESTED IN PURSUING A CAREER IN FINANCE—THERE'S NO BETTER PLACE TO GAIN SUCH DIVERSE AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE THAN THE NHS.

CASE STUDY 3

MELISSA TOUKAM, INSIGHTS TRAINEE SANDWELL AND WEST BIRMINGHAM HOSPITALS NHS TRUST

While working in financial management I obtained skills and training which helped me perform my work effectively. When I started, I had never used Excel, however from going through all the training necessary I was able to understand, and use Excel.

Working on a placement in Accounts Payable for the NHS provided me with valuable hands-on experience in financial operations within a large public sector organisation. The role involves processing invoices, verifying payment details and liaising with suppliers. It offers insight into the complexities of NHS budgeting and funding, as well as the importance of accuracy and efficiency in managing healthcare finances. The environment helps to develop key skills such as attention to detail, problem-solving and teamwork in order to insure the support of patient care.

Beyond technical skills, the placement fosters critical thinking and attention to detail as even minor errors can have significant financial implications. It also develops communication skills, as you may need to explain complex accounting concepts to colleagues or contribute to financial reports. The fast-paced environment encourages adaptability and time management as well.



CASE STUDY 4

JOE STEVENS, INSIGHTS TRAINEE UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE NHS TRUST

I am currently on a one-year insights placement at the NHS. The scheme has been very useful for me to gain knowledge of different areas within the NHS. I started at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire in the Clinical Support Services Group, and I have now rotated to the Core, Education, Training & Research group. The last rotation will be to Financial Services. The rotations have enabled me to gain experience in many different areas, which include invoicing, month end processes, journals and establishments. The experience has provided a solid foundation for general financial knowledge.

Shadowing of budget holder meetings has enabled me to see how different areas in the NHS work together to ensure quality service for the patients. I enjoy the fact that everybody I have worked with has been extremely kind and willing to help whenever I needed help, for example, when learning new processes. This is a 'pre-apprenticeship' scheme which I think sums it up perfectly as it certainly gives me a strong base of knowledge which I will use if I continue to be an apprentice. I would feel more comfortable as an apprentice, with the work I may be given as I would most likely have already done similar tasks during my placement.



I am also getting a view of how the NHS budget, income and expenditure work, and which areas are getting the most budget allocated. I can now understand the vast quantity of resources needed within the NHS. My understanding of the struggles the NHS faces are very

clear to me, and they include longer waiting times for patients, shortage of beds and workforce issues. Budgets are over stretched throughout different departments further adding to the struggles.

THE EXPERIENCE HAS PROVIDED A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR GENERAL FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE.

CASE STUDY 5

SAJEEL IQBAL, INSIGHTS TRAINEE NHS MIDLANDS AND LANCASHIRE CSU

My name is Sajeel Iqbal, and I'm currently a Finance Trainee with the NHS, working across various departments within the Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit (MLCSU). I'm now over halfway through my placement, and I can confidently say it has been an incredibly rewarding and insightful experience. Prior to this role, I had never worked in a professional setting, as this is my first-ever job. I graduated from sixth form with A-Levels in Economics, Business, and Mathematics, but I hadn't had the opportunity to work a traditional 9-5 job before joining the NHS.

The decision to accept this placement was both exciting and nerve-wracking, but the support and guidance I received throughout my time here have been invaluable in helping me adjust quickly and feel like a valued part of the team.

My placement has mostly been remote, as our office in Stoke-on-Trent (Bennet House) did not open until after Christmas. While I initially thought working from home might be distracting, I quickly found that the setup worked to my advantage. I was introduced to my first department, Procurement, where I had the opportunity to meet many new colleagues. Each person had a distinct role, which allowed me to shadow and learn from a variety of perspectives, providing me with an incredibly broad and enriching experience. Currently, I'm working in my second department, where I'm learning the process of handling and sorting invoices. I'm excited to continue rotating through different departments and further explore the breadth of Finance within the NHS.

This placement has been a unique experience for me, and I'm grateful for the connections I've made along the way. One of the highlights has been discovering that there are other Insights Trainees across different NHS Trusts. This led to the creation of a Snapchat group, where all trainees can connect, share experiences, and offer support to one another. We also have monthly meetings where we can check in on each other's progress, giving us a valuable insight into the various departments we may rotate into in the future. Additionally, we've been given the chance to attend training courses, such as Excel workshops, and participate in various webinars and events that deepen our understanding of NHS Finance, while also promoting mental health and wellbeing.

As my placement progresses, I'm eager to continue learning and growing within the NHS. I'm considering staying with the organisation to pursue my accounting exams and further my career. I highly recommend this Insights Placement to anyone interested in pursuing a career in Finance—there's no better place to gain such diverse and practical experience than the NHS.

I CAN CONFIDENTLY SAY IT HAS BEEN AN INCREDIBLY REWARDING AND INSIGHTFUL EXPERIENCE.

CASE STUDY 6

NASRA ABDULLE, INSIGHTS TRAINEE NHS ENGLAND – MIDLANDS



My placement has been an incredible experience so far. Through rotations across four key finance teams at NHS England, this experience has given me the opportunity to explore first-hand how finance supports the vital work of our NHS.

Each rotation has offered something new and I've had the chance to work with incredible professionals who are always willing to share their knowledge.

In Corporate and Programmes, I've assisted in internal budget planning for the 2025/26 financial year and learned how to use financial systems like Oracle. At the moment I'm with Commissioning, where I've learnt about how the NHS procures services, particularly for those requiring specialised care and learnt fundamental accounting skills, such as creating budget journals. The scheme has also provided valuable development opportunities, including Excel workshops and a foundation award in Healthcare Finance, which has set a foundation for my understanding of NHS finance, budgeting, business cases, commissioning, and governance.

One thing I truly appreciate about this placement is how you're treated like a professional, even as someone just leaving school. You're trusted to be a part of a team, take on real responsibilities and manage your own workload, including working from home. Even more so, as you build confidence and skills. Being able to contribute makes you feel like a valued member of the team and

you are able to carry the skills you were taught forward in your finance career. I've been incredibly fortunate to receive strong support from my managers, colleagues, and mentor, whose guidance has had a huge impact on my development, building my confidence and independence. As I look forward to my next rotations, I'm excited to keep building my skills and gaining new experiences.

The NHS insights scheme is an excellent pathway into finance for those looking to gain practical experience in a finance setting and an alternative to the traditional university route. It provides unique experiences, the chance to learn from accounting and finance professionals and continuous opportunities for growth.



CASE STUDY 7

HAIRA ABUBAKARI, INSIGHTS TRAINEE
THE ROYAL ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

During my time on the NHS finance placement, I have learned a lot about how the NHS manages its finances and the different areas of financial work. I gained a better understanding of how money flows into the NHS, how budgets are set, and how financial rules and regulations are followed. By working in different departments like Accounts Payable, Control Accounting, and Credit Control, I learned how important accuracy, attention to detail, and good communication are in keeping everything running smoothly.



This experience has also helped me decide that I want to pursue a career in finance, especially within the public or healthcare sectors. The skills I've gained, such as using Excel, making decisions, and managing my time, have prepared me for a future in finance. I now hope to continue developing my skills in financial planning and analysis and contribute to the success of organisations like the NHS.

On a personal level, this placement has been a great opportunity for growth. I started off feeling unsure, but over time, I became more confident, learned to communicate better, take risks, learn as much as possible and improved my time management. I also learned how to adapt to new situations and take on new challenges. The biggest lesson I've learned is that growth happens when you step out of your comfort zone and keep learning.

*I'VE HAD THE CHANCE TO WORK
WITH INCREDIBLE PROFESSIONALS
WHO ARE ALWAYS WILLING TO
SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE.*

CASE STUDY 8

LAILA HASSAN, INSIGHTS TRAINEE
COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP NHS TRUST



My name is Laila Hassan, and I am currently a Finance Trainee at Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust. This placement has been an incredibly valuable experience, allowing me to gain hands-on exposure to various aspects of financial management within the healthcare sector. Over the past months, I have had the opportunity to work in multiple departments and shadow colleagues within the hospital's finance division across Coventry and Warwickshire.

From a young age, I have always wanted a career where I could contribute to the community and make a positive impact. Working for the NHS as a Finance Trainee felt like the perfect opportunity to align my professional aspirations with my desire to give back. The healthcare sector relies on strong financial management to ensure resources are used efficiently and effectively to support patient care.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this experience has been the people I have met along the way. The team here is not only highly skilled but also incredibly supportive, friendly, and always willing to help. Their encouragement has played a significant role in motivating me to improve every day, pushing me to step out of my comfort zone and embrace new challenges with confidence.

A key takeaway from this placement has been the personal growth I have experienced, particularly in terms of self-confidence. Prior to this role, my work experience was in non-office environments, and I found the prospect of joining meetings and interviews quite intimidating. I often worried about not being selected or not being good enough for the role. However, this opportunity has helped me overcome those fears and reinforced my belief that I am capable of achieving anything I set my mind to.

I am truly grateful for the chance to be part of this placement, and I look forward to making the most of the final six months. With each passing day, I continue to learn and develop, and I am excited to further enhance my skills and understanding of finance within the NHS.

A KEY TAKEAWAY FROM THIS PLACEMENT HAS BEEN THE PERSONAL GROWTH I HAVE EXPERIENCED, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF SELF-CONFIDENCE.

FURTHER RESOURCES



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To create, develop and support a leading NHS finance community for the Midlands that reflects the population we serve.

If you have any questions on any of the above or would like any further information, then please get in touch with the team at one.finance@nhs.net

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