Khadijah Choudhury :

I graduated with a degree in Biomedical Science in 2018 and always knew that I wanted to work in healthcare and after completing my degree I thought I would be working in an NHS lab. When I started applying for laboratory jobs after graduating, I found it particularly difficult as my applications were unsuccessful, due to my lack of NHS experience. I knew that to overcome this I had to get some experience in the NHS to put me in a better position and that’s when I found out about the Get Into Hospital Services Programme run by The Princes Trust. The five-week programme consisted of various activities, where I had the chance to learn more about the UHB Trust and further developed my skillset by undertaking a range of practical activities and gaining AQA certificates in Team Building, Infection Control and First Aid Awareness. I also undertook a work placement at QE Hospital where I had the opportunity to shadow a Ward Clerk in the East Day Block Unit and on ward 305 in the new hospital building.

It was a great opportunity, allowing me to experience the difference between the working environments at both hospital sites and having the chance to assist the Ward Clerk’s and gain valuable insight into the role and duties required from a professional in the NHS. By working in an admin role, assisting in reception duties and engaging with the general public and patients, I developed my customer handling and communication skills by working collaboratively with both admin and clinical staff. I had the opportunity to communicate with a range of healthcare staff, from physiotherapists and nurses to administrators and coders. It gave me great insight into their different roles and the significance of being a good team player.

I was able to include my experiences from my work placement into my supporting information when applying for jobs and it allowed me to put across passion of wanting to work in the NHS and what I had observed from my two weeks of experience. I received a lot of support from the staff at The Learning Hub and they really pushed me to apply for a range of jobs and believed that I could achieve the goals I wanted. I am currently working as a Graduate Trainee in General Management for UHB Foundation Trust and after the completion of my training I see myself working in a Managerial Role for the Trust.

