



Cyflawni drwy
Brofiad Gwaith
Achieve through
Work Experience



CASE STUDY

Medical Sciences Student

Host Employer: Pathology Lab - Glan Clwyd Hospital

What is GO Wales?

The 'GO Wales' project based at Bangor University helps students to develop their employability skills and increase their chances of obtaining graduate level employment upon leaving university.

About the student

The student was in his final year, studying Medical Sciences and approached **GO Wales** for support as he was concerned about his future as he had no previous career related work experience. The student discussed that he had also been diagnosed with dyslexia and dyspraxia which was affecting his self-esteem.

Please describe what made you decide to take part in the GO Wales Project?

The GO Wales project was recommended to me by one of the other student services. I was coming to the end of my course and was worrying that my degree alone wouldn't be able to help me get into the work or a job that I wanted to do. After going along to find out more about GO Wales and finding that they were able to support me to find a placement, I realized that it could be my ticket into getting the crucial work experience or a placement that I needed to add something more to my CV than just a degree.

What type of work experience was found for you?

The GO Wales Advisors found a placement at Glan Clwyd Hospital within the pathology labs. The placement was great. Before I started the host employers wanted to know how I worked best and as I really enjoyed a more hands on, physical approach to laboratory work they decided to place me in the Histology Department.

How relevant was the work placement to the career path you wish to pursue?

The work experience was invaluable to the job I want to do. The placement involved working in a fully working laboratory which you don't get with just having a degree. The placement also taught a lot of invaluable on the job learning that can be applied to all lab based work settings.

How would you describe the experience of working in this role?

The experience itself was really interesting. What you get out of the experience is very much dependent how much effort you want to put in and how hands on you wish to be. I was really happy to be learning skills that are applicable to a lab setting.

Can you describe any new skills which you have learnt which you did not expect?

The physical skills using lab equipment and techniques in various areas of lab work. I think my communication skills and teamwork have definitely grown. You encounter and work with such a wide array of other healthcare staff that you need to be able to effectively work together and I found that as time progressed these skills were crucial to develop.





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Have you been able to implement anything you have learnt from your studies into the placement?

Yes, definitely some of the theoretical knowledge came in very handy and having a basis of understanding of some of the concepts that you encounter in the lab, such as special histology stains and basic human anatomy.

How have you found the support of your host employer at your work placement?

The host employer was very helpful. At the start of the placement they identified how best I worked and where they thought my skills would help me the most. The overall placement was a mixture of structured guidance and also free time which enabled me to learn other areas of the department that I wanted to learn.

Do you feel this work opportunity has helped you overcome some of the barriers you described before starting with the project?

Definitely one of my main barriers was not having any experience or work that related to my field of study. I am so extremely grateful that I was able to undergo the placement, and have the opportunity to stay on at the laboratory (after my time with GO Wales had finished) to increase my own knowledge and the experience I could offer potential future employers.

What have been the highlights of working at this placement?

Meeting such amazing healthcare staff, who I am so grateful to for their willingness to share and teach their own skills and knowledge. Also, being able to see the skills and hard work required into running such a vital NHS service and how it is managed.

What advice would you give to students who are thinking about applying to GO Wales?

I would say go for it! The support that I received from the Bangor GO Wales team was amazing and they really helped smooth the transition process into applying and getting onto my work placement. Also, be prepared to work hard as the placement gives you the opportunity to show employers what you have and can offer to them. Go in, work hard and want to achieve.

The GO Wales Advisor said “we are very grateful to the team at the Pathology Lab at Glan Clwyd Hospital for hosting this placement for our student. We would also like to thank the NHS “Step into Work” Team for their help in arranging the placement and for organising the required orientation course, e-learning modules and occupational health requirements needed before any placement can start. It has been a pleasure to support the student throughout this process and to see how well he has progressed in such a short space of time. The student recently applied for a NHS Trainee Biomedical Scientist post and was shortlisted from 170 applicants. We were very pleased to hear that he was successful with his application.”



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