



Cyflawni drwy  
Brofiad Gwaith  
Achieve through  
Work Experience



## CASE STUDY

### Social Sciences Student

#### Host Employer: Drws Y Nant – Gwynedd Council

#### 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

This student was in her final year of study and needed to gain enough work experience to enable her to apply for a bursary for a Masters Course in Social Work. When we first worked with the student she had no relevant work experience and she felt that her hearing loss held her back in terms of confidence.

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#### Please describe what made you first approach GO Wales?

*I decided to approach the GO Wales project, simply because I wanted proper support from an organisation that could help me find some work experience and take my disability into consideration. When I found out that GO Wales worked with people with disabilities I knew I had to contact them, and I do not regret it.*

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

*The placement was 100% relevant to my future career as a Social Worker. It opened my eyes in many ways and allowed me to become familiar with how support workers work to protect and support families and young children. I believe the placement sent me in the right direction as now I have some relevant career experience for the requirements of the Masters course I wish to study. The placement has allowed me to work with other social workers which has given me some perspective and allowed me to have a better understanding of what kind of things I will be facing in this role. The GO Wales Advisors could not have chosen a more suitable placement for me.*

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

*It is not an easy/straightforward role. It can be hard work, and tiring at times. It is challenging and sometimes took me out of my comfort zone. But, I think that what it has given me is extra confidence. Whilst shadowing support workers I have seen challenging and sometimes upsetting situations. I know they are examples of what I will be facing as a social worker. I thoroughly enjoyed the placement and I enjoyed the fact that I was helping families and children in the most rewarding way.*

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

*I have gained more confidence which I never thought I would do as I always doubted myself. I am now able to communicate better with other people and professionals, both verbally and on the phone, which is another surprise for me as I had always found it hard to do this due to my hearing loss. However, being put in situations where I HAD to speak on the phone allowed me to improve with confidence and I can now do it successfully. I am also now able to write up reports based on my professional opinion and also drive long distances which is something I was previously uncomfortable with.*



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**Have you been able to implement anything you have learnt from your university course into this placement?**

*In some of my study modules I have learnt about social work policies, standards etc. I had remembered to draw on those in my work placement which allowed me to carry out my role successfully.*

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

*The manager has been a big support from the start. He introduced me to Drws y Nant and supported and guided me throughout. I was very pleased to be offered paid employment as a family support worker. This has been a big influence in the improvement of my confidence.*

**Do you feel this placement has helped you overcome some of the barriers you described before starting the placement?**

*It has helped me overcome many barriers including communication. This has been achieved by having to talk to colleagues and speaking on the phone on a daily basis. I believe my confidence in these areas has improved throughout this process. I believe I have also overcome the barrier of being able to travel distances as this was something I was not entirely comfortable with at the start.*

**What are/have been the highlights of working at this placement?**

*The placement has allowed me to gain several new skills which I will be able to use in my future desired job. It has been a pleasure to be able to help and support families and young children under the care of Action for Children. I have been able to open my eyes to different perspectives which I feel has prepared me and helped me realise that this **is** what I want to do.*

**Is there anything about the GO Wales process you feel could be improved?**

*I have absolutely nothing negative to say about the project and I don't think anything could be improved.*

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

*Go ahead and do it. Think about what you need to achieve and what kind of direction you would like to follow. Think about what kind of skills you need to develop or improve and think about what kind of placement would help you achieve this. You are in very good hands of the GO Wales team who will do their best to support you and help you achieve your desired direction.*

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**The GO Wales Advisor said** “We are very grateful to the team at “Drws Y Nant” for their support in hosting this placement. It has been a pleasure to support this student and to see how much the experience has helped them to improve in confidence and overcome some of the fears and barriers they were facing. We are delighted that the placement has now resulted in paid employment for the student. This is a very positive outcome and will now enable the student to continue to develop the skills and experience needed to apply for a Masters in Social Work course. We wish her every success with her application and look forward to hearing how she gets on”.