

A Chadian Clinical Scientist refugee

I was born in Chad and grew up in Saudi Arabia, studying my degree there. I was awarded a scholarship to study a medical physics degree and had training in that field and work experience in the Radiology department as a Radiographer and a Radiation Safety Officer.

In 2018 I came to the UK with my children as an asylum seeker after we were forced to flee the country following direct persecution and discrimination.

As asylum seekers are not allowed to work until they receive refugee status in the UK, I searched for volunteering opportunities in the medical physics field. Unfortunately, I wasn't given a chance to work as a volunteer and so I kept looking for educational opportunities instead.

In 2020, I was given a scholarship to study a master's degree in Analytical Bioscience, this was a great achievement for me which really helped me to develop my academic knowledge, my research, and scientific skills.

After been given the refugee status and work permissions, I got in contact with the [RefuAid](#) organisation to help me with my language development to pass the IELTS test (*International English Language Test – required for professional registration*) and HCPC registration.

RefuAid also organised a meeting with HEE's Clinical Lead for AHP International Recruitment as a part of the pilot AHP refugee programme. We discussed the possible registration routes to allow me to use my skills with the NHS as it could have been either as a radiographer or as a clinical scientist. With input from the professional bodies, it was confirmed that with the degree that I held in medical physics, the best pathway to take to HCPC registration would be via the clinical scientist's route. Subsequently, a very successful meeting was arranged with one of my local NHS trusts to discuss possible support into employment. As it turned out, my skills were very much in need, and we started to look at opportunities within the radiation protection field. This has now turned into a prospective job offer.

This offer means a lot to me, and is life-changing, as I thought at the beginning this would be impossible after around 4 years of searching.

I am very keen to improve my skills, gain work experience in the UK and complete my HCPC registration. I believe that the lack of information and support in the refugee community could be improved by understanding their qualifications, recognising their work experience, and offering volunteering or training opportunities which can help them to speed up their registration and employment process.

I think there is a big barrier for the refugees to access a professional registration and a limited employment support in the UK. The most difficult part for me was finding a job or a volunteering opportunity whilst being in a new country, with no clear instructions or where you can find the information. The process can also be lengthy. The support that I have had from RefuAid and HEE was critical to me finally finding good work. The advice that I would give to others is always ask for help there are a lot of organisations and NHS trusts that can give guidance and support.

Clinical Scientist – Case Study

I really appreciate the support that I have received from HEE & RefuAid during my job hunting and the opportunity that I have been given to gain the UK experience regardless of the very complicated process of the registration.

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HEE RefuAid pilot refugee programme
(name and image withheld for confidentiality).