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# Jennifer Austin

## Jennifer Austin is a Apprentice Podiatrist at Sussex Community Foundation NHS Trust read about her experiences below.

### I am in my second year as an Apprentice Podiatrist this means I’m studying at the University of Brighton whilst being supported my colleagues in the Podiatry Department when I’m on placement with them. The unique situation of having more intense clinical hours in a place I am familiar in means that my skills have levelled up quickly. This has benefited patient care as it means I am able to run my own Podiatry clinics whilst being supported by my colleagues, the patients receive the thorough assessments in line with university teaching but in their usual clinic which helps continuity of care.

I have worked in my department for ten years as an Orthotic Technician/Foot Care Assistant and I joined then (2012) as an Apprentice. The variety of the work within Podiatry was a real attraction, as an Apprentice Podiatrist the work is interesting; in a usual week I do nail surgery, routine podiatry work, paediatrics musculoskeletal clinics, wound care, diabetic foot screening, vascular management and prescribe, manufacture and fit foot orthoses. Podiatry very much sits within a multidisciplinary team and I regularly work with orthopaedic surgeons, physios, ESP Podiatrists and in the wider team, vascular, rheumatoid and diabetes specialists.

Being given the opportunity to enrol with the University of Brighton and upskill by being employed to study to become a fully qualified Podiatrist has been the biggest development in my role that has helped me progress in my career as an AHP support worker.

**I am so proud of the impact I can have on patient care and on patient health quality. All of the progression has led me and continually leads me to develop in my professional clinical capacity and this has impacted me to have a holistic patient centred approach to podiatry patients.**

The roles within AHP support workers are vast and there are plenty of different jobs to suit most people. Working with the public to maintain quality of health, mobility and pain management is incredibly enriching. The friends and colleagues you meet along the way are a real bonus too.

If you are considering moving into a role as an AHP support worker, absolutely do it. There are so many incredible people working within health care and by joining you can make a real difference to patients’ lives.