

Anne Mckenzie - Data Readiness Apprentice @ Kings College Hospital NHS Trust



What led you to do an apprenticeship?

My workplace offered this apprenticeship and I was attracted to apply because of the range of new skills that I could learn within the field of data analysis and this was directly applicable to my role. I had previously completed an apprenticeship in Leadership and Management so was familiar with this method of learning.

What goal were you trying to achieve?

I am trying to improve my career prospects by learning new skills, particularly advanced levels of data analysis within Excel and the use of databases, basic programming skills and use of dashboards to present data.

I can see by looking at job vacancies within the NHS that this is a growing area and these skills will help me to progress. I can also use these skills to improve methods of data analysis within my current role and there are also opportunities to get involved in areas of data analysis within the wider department which will give me greater experience.

What benefits did the apprenticeship offer over other upskilling and academic courses?

The additional benefits of the apprenticeship are that my manager supports me by allowing me 20% off the job training time, so I am learning and working towards my apprenticeship qualification while in my current role. It is also directly relevant and useful to my work so I am confident that I can transfer learning into improving my own work as well as improving my career prospects. The length of the programme, the comprehensiveness of the training programmes, the achievement of a recognised qualification and the support of a coach are also additional advantages.

How does the programme blend learning with the role you have?

I gather statistics on training attendance and financial information on income and expenditure so the learning I receive on this apprenticeship will directly blend with my role and allow me to improve the way I analyse and present data. This is alongside improving how this can then inform departmental decision making.

What three things do you like about the programme?

- 1) The online workshops .
- 2) Support from my coach to guide me through next steps needed each month.
- 3) Access to learning through pluralsight.

What are the main things you have achieved through the programmes?

I am still near the beginning of the programme but I have attended the first workshop on data architecture which was very interesting and also helpful as it worked through the structure needed for the projects which make up the portfolio for this apprenticeship.

Would you recommend apprenticeships and why?

I would recommend apprenticeships as an excellent way to learn work related skills within the workplace. This is a fantastic way to upskill yourself while still working and with skills which directly help you progress at work and for your future career.

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