

NHS FINANCE / PROCUREMENT / DIGITAL, DATA & TECHNOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE WORK PLACEMENTS

COME AND EXPERIENCE ONE OF THE LARGEST, MOST INNOVATIVE AND COMPLEX NETWORK OF ORGANISATIONS IN THE WORLD

One-year placements located at various NHS Organisations across England

About the Placements

Have you ever wondered how much an operation costs, how the NHS finds the money to build a new hospital, why we have waiting lists, who makes sure every hospital has the supplies it needs, how ambulances get to where they need to be, and how the NHS manages such a huge volume of data, making sure it flows as needed and is used in the best way for decision making. Or simply, how does a large and complex organisation manage money, purchasing or information.

If your answer is yes, then an undergraduate work placement within the NHS may be a great opportunity for you. A year in NHS Finance, Procurement or Digital, Data & Technology (DDaT) gives you an opportunity to put what you are learning at university into practice, in a real-life situation where your work contributes to patient care, as well as find out what it is like to work in a huge network of organisations like the NHS.

A number of NHS Organisations across England offer one-year Finance, Procurement and Digital, Data & Technology Placements for undergraduates studying relevant degrees. This diverse range of NHS Organisations includes Ambulance Trusts, Hospitals, Mental Health Trusts, Community Healthcare Providers, Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) which commission care, and the NHS England Regional Teams. Some offer remote or hybrid working. Some placements are within one team, to develop a depth of knowledge, while other organisations offer the option to rotate between teams during the placement year, to gain a broader perspective. In many cases, you will be taking over from a current undergraduate on placement, as many organisations have a long-standing placement position and really value the ongoing contribution of students to their workforce.

The NHS employs around 1.5 million people, has an annual budget of many billions of pounds and is using technology to help staff deliver the best patient care. You could be part of a team that has a vital role to play in supporting this.



We are seeking undergraduates to join us who:

- Have strong communication skills and can work as part of a team, as well as independently.
- Are good at planning & organising, have an eye for detail and can assimilate complex information.
- Have excellent MS Office skills and are able to demonstrate an interest in the area of work to which you are applying.
- Have ambition, are highly motivated, enjoy a challenge and are keen to take on responsibilities.

Placements will be for 12 months, commencing summer 2027. The salary starts at Band 2 / £25,272 (dependent upon location and subject to increase dependent on the pay award agreed for 2027/28).

You will get on-going support from your line manager and colleagues, and opportunities for training and development throughout the year. After the placement you will be in a strong position to apply for a place on the NHS Graduate Scheme, or to apply directly for related jobs in the NHS. Some students have even continued working for the NHS part time, during their final year degree.

For Finance in particular, experience gained throughout the placement can contribute towards future CIPFA, CIMA, ACCA or ICAEW practical experience requirements.

Case Studies

Placements vary from one organisation to another – as there are several different types of NHS organisation. Here is what one undergraduate, a third of the way through her placement, had to say: *“I chose the NHS Finance Undergraduate Work Placement for two reasons:*

The first was that my accounting modules at university made me realise that this was something I could get into. I wanted a placement which would allow me to learn more about finance, but there are hundreds of companies which offer this – so why pick the NHS? In short, because it is a job that makes a difference. I felt a strong pull towards the NHS because it meant that the work I do, even if it is behind the scenes in an office, has a real impact on peoples’ lives.

Within the first few months here I have been given so much responsibility, which really allows me to test my ability and learn in a more hands on way. Whilst the theory you study in a university lecture is good, actually applying this knowledge in practice helps it to sink in and gives a much better understanding of accounting processes.

Part of my role at the moment is managing a budget. This involves making journals using double entry, working out forecasts and phasing budgets throughout the year. These are all skills that will be examined in my final year at university, so I am sure that this placement will make my studies next year easier.

So far I am thoroughly enjoying my time at the NHS. The work is interesting, the people are friendly and there is always an opportunity to learn something new. I would definitely recommend this placement to anyone

looking to get into finance, because everyone in my team is so supportive and willing to help. When I first arrived I thought I would be a nuisance if I kept asking questions, but I couldn’t have been more wrong – all my colleagues are eager to make sure this is the most beneficial experience possible.”

Another, who has recently graduated, contacted us to say: *“I got a First! I couldn’t have done it without the support from each and every one of you so I wanted to say a BIG THANK YOU for providing me with such a wonderful opportunity to learn and develop.”*

How to Apply

For further information and to apply go to:

<https://www.nhsworkplacements.com/opportunities>

The closing date for applications is 1 February 2027

What do we look for in an application?

- Make sure your application is fully completed and accurate. Remember we are looking for people with an eye for detail and you have an opportunity to show us this via your application.
- Think about the organisations/locations you choose when uploading your application form. You can choose a maximum of 10. The more locations you choose, the more opportunities that will give you to secure a placement, but you also need to be realistic about your commute if/when you do need to be in the office (which may be full time, a couple of days per week or a couple of days per month or less, depending on their current set-up), or think about whether you are willing to re-locate for the year (particularly for office based vacancies).
- We are keen to recruit people with a long-term interest in the NHS and an interest in Finance, Procurement and Digital, Data & Technology careers.
- Tell us about your work experience and IT skills (especially with Excel spreadsheets).
- Your application should be written with the NHS in mind and show that you’ve done some research – you can find out more about the NHS in general at www.dh.gov.uk and www.england.nhs.uk, and more about NHS Finance careers at [One NHS Finance](#). If you are invited for an interview, you should also then look at that organisation’s own website – for details of what they do specifically.
- Remember that you have got lots of competition for this great opportunity, but you most probably also have a lot to offer the NHS.

Current Placement Vacancies:

