



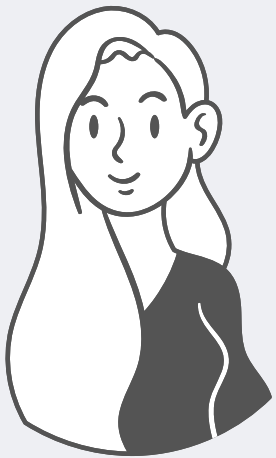
ASSIST

Knowledge Development

IS Business Analyst Apprenticeship (Level 4)

AKD

success
stories



Verity



Business
Analyst



Sage

Background

I had always planned to go to university as this is what I was always told would be the best path. After leaving school I went on to university but after a few months, I realised it simply wasn't for me. I wasn't enjoying myself or getting much out of the experience. I dropped out and was left struggling to know what to do, with a desperate desire to prove to myself and that I could still achieve as much as my friends. I took some temporary jobs before joining the NHS and working my way up the admin side of general practice for the next 3 years. I reached a point where there was nowhere else to go in general practice, I had learned what I could and there was no further opportunity. This is when I started to wonder what I could do, and how I could get myself into a career that would challenge me, where I could learn and be proud of my work.

Why did you apply for the apprenticeship?

When job searching, I saw an apprentice role and thought it was worth looking into. I had never looked at an apprenticeship before but knew it included more practical learning than academic. I liked the idea of learning on the job, getting support and mentoring as I worked, before taking on higher levels of responsibility. I would also be earning as I went. I applied, got an interview and haven't looked back. I'm certain an apprenticeship was the right choice for me.

What challenges have you faced during the apprenticeship?

One of the biggest challenges I faced was my own confidence and uncertainty. I was desperate to prove myself and not make mistakes, eager to take on more and more challenges and push myself forward but not always giving myself the time to understand and learn from them. I ended up running at full speed constantly for months before realising I was pushing myself too hard and setting unreasonable expectations for both myself and for my managers. This is something that I eventually spoke to my manager about and we have worked together to understand when I actually have capacity to take on more work and when I'm pushing myself too hard.

What have you found rewarding about the apprenticeship?

I think the most rewarding thing about the apprenticeship is looking back at the work that you created at the very beginning of the apprenticeship and comparing it to what I'm able to create now. Seeing that progress is so rewarding and drives me forward to learn and do more. One especially rewarding moment was when I received my final grade and got a review of my work, highlighting my strengths and achievements throughout the apprenticeship.

Any other thoughts or comments?

I really enjoyed the courses run by AssistKD, I found them all very helpful and valued being able to talk to apprentices or BAs at other companies about different processes and techniques that they used and the results they got from them. I felt that this really added to my experience as an apprentice. I was initially worried that I might be looked down on as an apprentice within the company, however, that was never the case. During the apprentice programme, I have found I have changed significantly. I am much more confident and have noticed an increase in my self-worth and ability to put myself first and put myself forward.