

MEDICINE

In my opinion no other occupation has so much to offer as medicine. The challenge of learning complex anatomy and physiology and ultimately specialising in a particular field such as cardiology excite me immensely.

To help me gain insight into the world of medicine, I spent three weeks on work experience placements during the summer holidays. I worked in the Accident and Emergency Department in North Tees Hospital, in the Intensive Care Unit at Middlesbrough General and in a General Practitioners' Surgery in Thornaby. At the A&E Department, I observed nurses performing triage and how they extracted vital information about a patient's history. I shadowed doctors into treatment rooms. I observed a variety of interesting lacerations and fractures and witnessed the removal of several foreign bodies! I particularly enjoyed looking at X-rays as the doctor would explain that they were looking for and what the X-ray showed. It was amazing how much information could be extracted from an X-ray – and how tiny some of the clues were!

The Intensive Care Unit showed me a very different side of medicine. I observed tracheostomy and a muscle biopsy. I was privileged to join the ward rounds each morning and worked closely with the consultant anaesthetic who explained how the life maintaining equipment operated and how each patient was being treated. Working at the Medical Centre showed me how vital team work is to the profession. The GP I shadowed at the surgery also worked at the hospital, and I was able to observe him performing colonoscopies and gastroscopies as well as the removal of various cysts and ulcers.

I enjoy studying the A levels I am taking and have achieved a high standard of work throughout my course. I maintain a good working relationship with my tutors. Studying Maths enabled me to develop a logical way of thinking which is required by medicine, whilst Chemistry has given me a firm foundation on which to build the physiology I will learn at medical school. In Physics, at the moment, I am studying the electron, which I find fascinating. The problem solving nature of all my subjects should stand me in good stead for the many varied and taxing challenges I will face once I embark on a medical career.

I lead a very active life outside of college playing a diverse range of sports. My favourite team game is hockey where I represent the North East of England. Gold Duke of Edinburgh increased my love of the outdoors; I have become a proficient rock climber, mountaineer and skier. I captained my school hockey, cricket and rugby teams, enhancing my ability to work under pressure, communicate effectively and work in a team. I am very fond of music in all its forms and regularly play the piano and guitar in a band.

I have been assisting a teacher at a local primary school for the past six months. Helping special needs children in particular has confirmed that I am patient and sensitive and has raised my interpersonal skills towards the standards shown to me by the doctors and nurses I worked with on my placements. I am looking forward to the intellectual demands of medical school and the day when I assess and diagnose my first patient.