



Jodie Smyth

Student Cardiac Physiologist

Can you give us a brief outline of your work history?

I started university in September 2020, studying Healthcare Science. I began a 10-week placement in the Cardiac Investigations Unit in July 2021, where I was trained on how to take ECGs and discovered ambulatory monitoring. In April 2022, I began working part-time in Cardiac Investigations while also committing to another 10-week placement. I am now in my final year of my Healthcare Science (Cardiology) degree and have been able to complete my 30-week placement in final year while also having the opportunity to work within the department.

What made you decide this career path?

I always knew I wanted to be of help to people, especially when they are at their most vulnerable.

How did you train for this role/educational route?

I am completing the Healthcare Science degree at Ulster University. The degree gives great options. In my second year, I was given the choice to specialise in either Cardiology, Respiratory or just general Health Physiology. I chose cardiology due to my interest in the different areas within cardiology.

What qualities are required for your job – personal and professional?

Personal qualities would include being friendly and empathetic. Professional qualities would include being passionate, dedicated, and flexible.

What does a typical day involve?

A typical day in Cardiac Investigations for me could involve taking ECGs, fitting patients with ambulatory monitors, analysing the ambulatory monitors and exercise stress testing. Other aspects of the job include being involved in Echocardiograms, Pacing and in the Catheterisation Lab.

What do you like best about your job?

I enjoy patient contact in the clinics. I enjoy showing empathy towards patients and gaining a rapport.

What advice would you give anyone thinking of doing your job?

Go for it! Working in an outpatient's department allows for flexible working hours and is a great environment to work in.