



Jonathan
McKenna

Audiologist

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

After completing my Leaving Certificate, I studied Audiology at Swansea University, a three-year degree which I completed in September 2022. Since December 2022, I have worked in the SHSCT.

What made you decide this career path?

I have relatives who have a hearing loss, so I grew up around hearing loss. When I was 15 and didn't know what I wanted to do after school was finished, I ran into an audiologist in my local hospital who explained what his job was and what he carried out on a day-to-day basis. After hearing what they had to say, I began to research more into audiology and became really interested in studying it.

How did you train for this role/educational route?

I moved to Swansea in September 2019 to begin my three-year course in Audiology BSc. This course was a mixture of lectures and over 50 weeks of clinical placement, which gave me a great insight into how an audiology clinic is run and allowed me to hone my skills within a clinical environment.

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

Being a people person is the most important thing. In audiology, you are never going to know what's going to walk through the door each day, so it's essential to be able to make people feel comfortable and build a rapport with them. Being able to work as part of a team is another important quality. Audiology is quite a tight-knit group, and we work quite closely with ENT too, so it's important to maintain good relationships with colleagues.

What does a typical day involve?

A typical day in audiology depends on what appointments you are booked for. As audiologists, there is quite a big range of what we do - hearing tests, hearing aid fittings, repair appointments. We also have patients who walk into the clinic seeking hearing aid repairs, so we sometimes have to juggle these patients as well as our booked appointments. What I like about working in audiology is that the work is quite fast-paced, and it makes the day go very quickly.

What do you like best about your job?

I love meeting a variety of different people every day. It feels good knowing that you are able to help people who are struggling with their hearing.

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

It's a lot of hard work but very rewarding. I love walking into work each day knowing that I'm going to be making a difference to the quality of someone's life.