

Meet Gemma

Nurse

Hi, my name is Gemma. I am a nurse and I work in the Gastroenterology outpatients department at the Royal United Hospitals Bath. Find out more about me and what I do below.



How did you get into nursing?

I studied A-Levels in Psychology and Health and Social Care at college. When I finished my studies, I decided that I wanted to work in Health and Social Care. I knew that I wanted to care for people and make a difference but I was not sure which part of health care I would be good at.

I applied for lots of Health and Social care positions but I was unsuccessful because employers wanted people with experience. This made me more determined and I eventually gained a Health Care Assistant post in Mental Health.

Whilst working in this post, I realised that Mental Health was not for me. I decided to look for a job in a hospital and applied for different roles until I was offered the post of a Health Care Assistant on a medical ward at the Royal United Hospitals in Bath.

The first few weeks were challenging. I questioned whether I could do the job and if this was the right place for me. Fortunately, my colleagues were very supportive and encouraged me to stay. I needed to give myself time to adjust.



After a few months, I had settled into my role and began to enjoy myself.

Over the next couple of years, I grew in my role. I gained a lot of experience and my colleagues encouraged me to apply for nurse training.

My A-Level results did not provide enough UCAS points to apply for the nursing degree so I studied an Access to Higher Education diploma. After I gained the diploma, I had enough UCAS points and was able to study nursing at university. I left my job and studied the nursing degree full-time.

Once I became a registered nurse, I returned to the medical ward. My first year as a registered nurse was very demanding but I gained a wealth of experience and knowledge. I enjoyed the autonomy and freedom that enabled me to make my own decisions about patient care. I also enjoyed working in a team and the challenges that it brings.

After a while, I felt that I needed a change and so I spent some time in the Gastroenterology outpatients department. The staff were inspiring, as was the manager, and I knew that this would be the right move for me.

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What is the Gastroenterology outpatient department?

Gastroenterology relates to managing symptoms and conditions of the digestive system, including the upper and lower bowel, liver and pancreas.

The Gastroenterology outpatient department is made up of two areas; a theatre where diagnostic procedures (tests) are carried out and a recovery area where patients go after undergoing a procedure.



What do you do?

When I am working in the theatre, my role is to support both the doctor and the patient. When working in the recovery area, I monitor patients after their procedure and when they are ready, I discharge them so that they can leave the hospital. I work four days a week and this fits with my family commitments.

What inspired you to become a nurse?

I feel that nurses have an inherent feeling inside to care for others. My gran worked as a district nurse and I believe that this feeling was inspired by her. I know my Gran would be so proud of my achievements.

What do you enjoy about your job?

I enjoy providing face-to-face patient-centred care. My favourite part of my role is seeing a smile from my patients. It is worth its weight in gold and I know that I have done the best job I can do.

Want further information?



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- ⇒ Visit the [Step into the NHS](http://www.stepintothenhhs.nhs.uk) website (www.stepintothenhhs.nhs.uk)
- ⇒ Visit [NHS jobs](http://www.jobs.nhs.uk) to search and apply for vacancies at the RUH (www.jobs.nhs.uk)
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