“Swindon College staff are very good at advising the ‘next step’ progress options, thereby giving a professional development pathway.“



GEMMA SEAL

Foundation Degree Health & Social Care (Higher Apprenticeship)

Gemma applied for the course through her role at work at Great Western Hospital and was pleased to return to Swindon College having been a student here before. She says the course is very good, very well set out and allows her to get an overarching view of core materials while she is also able to specialise in her chosen field of assistant practitioner in theatre.

Gemma comes to college one day a week, the rest of her time is spent in the workplace. She says the course and the job complement each other well as she can apply what is learnt in class to her day-to-day activities, and that the knowledge she brings from her job helps her with understanding what she’s learning. She says the course fits well around her commitments and she has a good balance between work, study and home life.

As a trainee assistant theatre practitioner, Gemma can do a lot of what nurses and Operating Department Practitioners (ODPs) do, such as scrubbing and assisting in operations in general theatre. She sets up the instrument trays and helps support the team with care for patients who have been under both local and general anaesthetic. Gemma says she hopes that with further study she will gain a degree and will then have the option to apply to become an ODP or train further to become a nurse.