“If you want to progress your career in an environment that supports you to strive to achieve the best you can, then I recommend you attend the Foundation Degree at Swindon College!”



CIARA JENNER

Foundation Degree in Health and Social Care

Ciara chose to come to Swindon College after she started to look for opportunities to progress. She says “I had been in my post as a Health Care Support Worker for approximately one year, supporting the Occupational Therapists on the ward where I work, so I approached the Ward Manager to see whether there were any opportunities for me to progress. I was asked whether I would be interested in applying for the Trainee Assistant Practitioner course. I had to go for an interview for a funded place as there were several other candidates and, luckily, I was successful. I then went to Swindon College for an official college interview and I was very nervous but I was fortunate enough to be accepted. Even though I initially had no intentions of “going back to college” I am eternally thankful to all those who have given me this amazing opportunity.”

Ciara also says that it’s been very hard work but she has been supported every step of the way by her tutors. She says that “any success I’ve had on the course is due to their commitment to their students. The class is a safe space to talk about scenarios at work and you feel that you can be honest, as well as speaking up about difficulties that have arisen. You’re never made to feel that you cannot ask a question, even if you think it’s going to sound ridiculous.”

This course has helped Ciara to improve her time management skills in order to work out how to work hard, study hard, and play hard! She feels that you need to ensure you have the right balance of those things as it is important to remember your identity and to do the things you are passionate about. Life is for living! With regard to future career and study plans, Ciara says she has a more comprehensive understanding of her role within the team at work and can see the progression which is really exciting. She plans to focus on Occupational Therapy as this is where her passion lies. She also now supervises another member of staff which is an exciting new challenge and hopes to mentor others in the future.