

Awais' Case Study

What is your current job role?

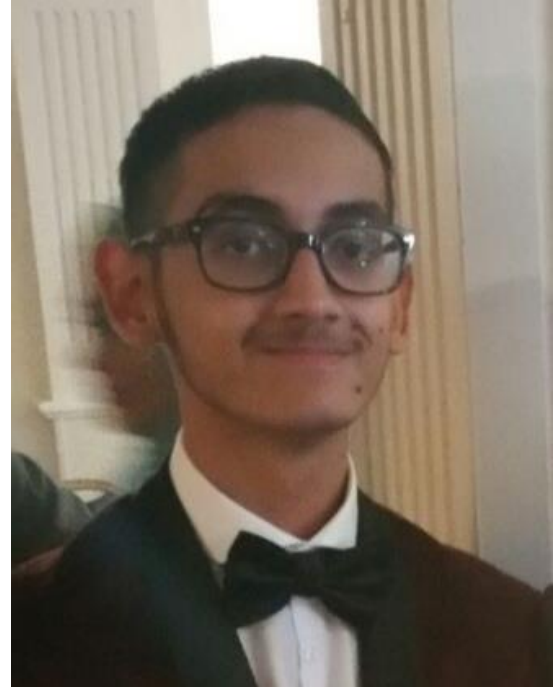
Student and part-time Sales Assistant

What was your journey to this role?

My journey started mainly from the beginning of college as I did a BTEC course in level 3 Applied Science. I've always liked science but the psychology units of the course were especially interesting to me as I really enjoyed learning about things such as mental health issues and criminal psychology. I achieved Distinctions in my psychology units and received a final grade of D*D*D which is equivalent to A*A*A.

What experience/s developed your key employability skills?

My employability skills were developed in the summer holidays after leaving Fir Vale. I was looking for a job but couldn't find anything so I decided to do some volunteering instead. I volunteered for 3 months at the Great British Heart Foundation where I developed a full range of skills such as stock management, customer servicing and organisational techniques. I eventually left this role when I began college. I then found a part time job at Meadowhall in my second year of college and have been working this job for 2 years. I also had the opportunity to volunteer with the NHS on a special project designed for students aged 16-18. I volunteered around the hospital working in a shop, directing people around the hospital and working on the hospital clothing project. This project since ended in June and I now volunteer as a Pharmacy runner where I deliver medicine to the wards around the hospital. I plan to work part time and volunteer alongside my University studies.



What advice would you give to current students around developing their own skills ready for leaving education?

Don't write off the idea of volunteering, it's the reason I have gotten to the place I wanted to. When I started volunteering, nobody else was interested and they only wanted jobs that paid but volunteering gives you a head start in the process as it stands out on your CV as it's showing that you've given up your own time to seek experience. Employers really like seeing that stuff when they're hiring people.

Any further advice?

The only way to be successful is by working hard, there are no shortcuts.