

Next generation scientists find a place to thrive.

Four trainee biomedical scientists who are working in different laboratories across the Welsh Blood Service were recently highlighted in the BBTS Bloodlines newsletter, where they reflected on building their careers.

Celyn Hughes and Lowri Kadelka-Williams entered the blood service through work-based placements as part of their Healthcare Science degree at Cardiff Metropolitan University, the degree's format gave them early professional experience, launching their biomedical scientist careers at WBS. Jemima Hughes and Victoria Binding came to Welsh Blood Service through a different route. Both studied for science degrees at Cardiff Metropolitan University, which exposed them to a range of scientific fields. They are starting their careers as medical laboratory assistants while completing their professional registration portfolio.

The final year projects undertaken by the young scientists introduced them to the research aspect of Healthcare Science. These projects are carried out by undergraduates while they gain experience in scientific investigation. They play a crucial role in understanding the significance of gathering evidence, a skill they still use in their roles at the Welsh Blood Service.

Among the group featured in the Bloodlines Newsletter, Lowri Kadelka-Williams was one of the young scientists to conduct her project in a live research setting. Lowri carried out her project in the Component Development & Research Laboratory alongside Nicola Pearce. Lowri worked on examining the incidence of Pseudohyperkalaemia in our blood donations. The aim was to develop a method for testing donations affected by this condition. Having such a test would help the WBS better identify units intended for neonatal use.

Offering placements that allow trainee scientists to engage in short to medium-term projects allows trainees to gain valuable experience in a dynamic research setting. They are given opportunities such as co-publication and conference presentations and may inspire the researchers of the future to reach new heights in their fields. Lowri completed this project in 2022 and achieved her BSc in Healthcare Science. She is currently working in the Quality Assurance laboratory.



LOWRI KADELKA- WILLIAMS

I am very lucky to be given opportunities to develop my skills in a range of environments within the Welsh Blood Service. I'm looking forward to continuing to develop professionally within the laboratory environment and would love to be able to complete my specialist qualifications in Transfusion Sciences while working in the Welsh Blood Service.



Gwasanaeth Gwaed Cymru
Welsh Blood Service