**Work Experience Case Study from a student who had a placement in Medical Shadowing**

**What Departments/Wards did you attend?**

I worked on multiple wards and departments ranging from paediatrics to gynaecology in theatres.

**What tasks did you complete or observe on placement?**

I observed many tasks such as regular consultations and examinations in clinics and wards, hysterectomy and cystectomy in theatre’s, tumour ablation in oncology/ gynaecology and thought processes of the consultants which help them to determine the best course of action.

**What did you enjoy the most during your placement?**

I enjoyed the people I was working with the most out of everything during my placement. I felt that everyone I came in contact with were very welcoming and supportive and intrigued to get to know me in order to treat me like one of their own, especially in theatres; by the conclusion of my placement, I felt like I had been working there a long time and felt part of the theatre team.

**How has your placement supported you with the decisions relating to your future career pathway? How has the placement helped you achieve your career goals?**

This placement has provided me with an insight into all the different aspects of working in a hospital and the unlimited opportunities there are working in this kind of setting which has helped me with my career goals and I am almost certain that I definitely want to work in a hospital environment as I personally believe I would thrive best in these areas. This will help me with my career goals as I have a clearer understanding of which medicine course would best suit the line of work that I want to work in.

**How did the trust support you during your placements?**

The trust was very helpful in making sure I was ready for my placement well in advance of starting and provided me with maps of the hospital and induction events to ensure I was ready to start working and they answered any questions I had and were supportive when I was panicking sending a lot of emails reassuring me that everything was in place ready for me to start my placement.

**What advice would you provide others who are/will be completing a work experience placement within Gateshead Health NHS Trust?**

My advice for other students applying for work experience would be to just enjoy it and have fun whilst you are here because it could be a long time before you get an opportunity like this again. Make sure to ask as many questions as you want because the consultants will be more than happy to answer them and it will help you to gain knowledge about different areas of the hospital which may give you a sense of direction as to where you hope to end up in the future.