



After leaving RHS in 2011, I went to Oxford University to study Physics for three years. I am now working at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, training to become a Medical Physicist as part of the NHS Scientist Training Programme (STP).

I work in areas such as nuclear medicine, diagnostic radiology and radiation protection. A typical day might involve performing some checks on a Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanner in order to check it is performing optimally or analysing patient X-ray dose data to make sure we are producing high quality images whilst keeping patient doses as low as possible. I also have regular patient contact, for example going to clinics to give radiation protection advice to patients

who are being administered with a radioactive pharmaceutical to treat their cancer.

The STP is a three year training programme, comprised of work-based training in a hospital alongside doing a fully-funded part-time Master's degree. There is a fantastic balance of doing clinical work and also having the opportunity to do research which can be quickly translated into clinical practice. One of my favourite things about my job is that I am able to use my knowledge of physics every day in a way that is hugely beneficial to the patients and staff within the hospital.

Having embarked on a career in physics, a field in which women are under-represented, I can now appreciate even more the benefit that I gained from having female role-models at RHS, whether they were teachers, peers or speakers at assemblies. RHS also gave me many opportunities to do public speaking, which greatly helped my confidence when presenting my work at university and still helps me now when I am interacting with patients, the public and other members of staff.

Charlotte Porter