

Real-life story - Samantha Thorn

From a young age, Samantha was interested in the workings of the heart, and chose biology, chemistry and physical education as her A level subjects.



Samantha Thorn Trainee healthcare scientist

Employer or university University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust

Salary range Unknown

What I do

I'm qualified to perform a range of diagnostic cardiac tests such as electrocardiograms [1] (ECGs), exercise tolerance tests, 'tilt' tests, and 24-hour heart monitors. Every day is different and I interact with patients both in clinics and on the wards.

I am also a key part of the team during cardiac procedures like angiograms, angioplasty (mechanically widening narrowed or obstructed arteries) and pacemaker implantation. I monitor the patient's physiology [2], using ECG interpretation and blood pressure monitoring from inside the heart.

My perspective

Working in the catheter [3] labs is very exciting, especially during an angioplasty. It's extremely rewarding to know I've played a part in the procedure and helped to stabilise the patient.

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How I got in

I studied for a BSc Hons degree in Healthcare Science, specialising in cardiac physiology [2] (PTP [4]). Doing a clinically based degree meant there was a lot more to it than lectures and exams. Time on placement allowed me to put into practice what I'd learnt on the course.

Source URL: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physiological-sciences/cardiac-sciences/real-life-story-samantha-thorn>

Links

- [1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Electrocardiograms>
- [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Physiology>
- [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Catheter>
- [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#PTP>