

"Working in the catheter labs is very exciting, especially during an angioplasty."

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



What I do

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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

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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.

How I got in

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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.

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Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Electrocardiograms> [2]

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<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Catheter> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#PTP>