

# "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



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**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] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Physiology>

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

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