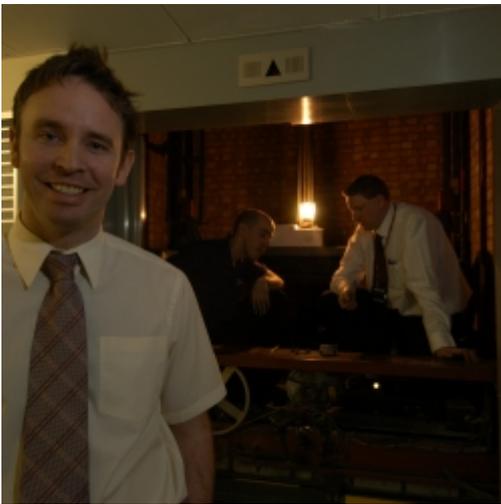


## Real-life story - Chris Willis

After qualifying as an electrician Chris found that he was able to work, gaining several promotions, while studying to improve his prospects even more.

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Chris Willis Patient environment manager

**Employer or university** Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

**Salary range** ?10k-?20k

### How I got in

As a qualified electrician, I took the decision to join the NHS as a maintenance assistant because of the excellent career potential on offer. It has turned out to be a great decision!

I had the satisfaction of being promoted twice - to electrical craftsman and then to day technician. I was given all the encouragement and financial support I needed. While I was a day technician, my employer paid for me first to study part time for a BTEC in electrical and electronic engineering and then for an HNC/HND.

I'm now patient environment manager as well as being in the final year of a degree course in electrical engineering. At the moment, I think I'll probably do the MBA with the aim of becoming an operations or estates manager, but I haven't quite decided yet. The field is wide open to me.

### What I do

I still work some of the time as an on-call electrical engineer but I also report to the trust's maintenance and operations managers. I am responsible for making sure the wards are a safe environment for staff and

patients.

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## **The best bits and challenges**

With the support of the NHS, I have made great progress and I intend to go even further. I could go on to do an MBA in engineering management or choose to join the electrical systems design team or move into project management.

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