

Work Experience Report – Hannah Woods

I am a Year 12 student hoping to study psychology at university, and this April I undertook a three-day work experience placement at the Clinical Research Facility, based on the Warneford Hospital site in Oxford. I spent one day at OHBA (Oxford Centre for Human Brain Activity) and this was by far my favourite day because of the excitement and hands on approach with which I was welcomed. Here, I was lucky enough to observe two MRI scans, and was also given the opportunity to use an EEG scanner, both of which I found fascinating, having never previously encountered them. I was also able to shadow post-graduate students and professionals of varying disciplines including medicine, biology and radiography. Everyone I encountered was friendly and willing to set aside time to spend with me, answering all my questions. I found these discussions invaluable as their different backgrounds gave me an understanding of just how many angles the human brain can be studied from, widening my own ideas for future education and careers.

I also spent two days in the Clinical Research Facility (CRF) shadowing Dr Smith, a psychiatric consultant, and had the chance to observe an assessment, which was a fantastic opportunity above and beyond what I had hoped for, whilst also casting light onto the challenging yet stimulating reality of this line of work. Furthermore, I was able to observe a full study day for a research project into Alzheimer's Dementia, which was fantastic for me, as I got to see everything I have learned in the classroom be put into practice in a real-life setting.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed my work experience placement thanks to the kindness I was shown by everyone I encountered, helping me to feel comfortable and included. Conversations were arranged for me with professionals from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines, and these discussions helped me widen my thinking in terms of higher education and career paths. The hands on and interactive approach of this placement engaged and excited me, allowing me to explore in real-life what I have learned at school.