

**How did you choose your course and university?** *E.g. was it location, course content, expectations?*

I went to London South Bank University to study Children's Nursing BSc Hons. The course ran over three years and uses a dual learning approach, partially I was in university but the majority was placement. I gained hands on nursing experience at University Collage London Hospital. I knew that this was the course for me as I have always loved working with children in all capacities, however my passion is in science; so I found a way to stay involved with both. When I left secondary school I initially started a course in forensic science as I wanted to study pathology! Which is a drastic career change. The expectations were very high, you had to put the work in to get the best possible grade. There are no cutting corners with assignments, I spent many days and nights in our campus library. The course itself was so rewarding, learning how to manage and treat a deteriorating child in a clinical setting. Anatomy and physiology of the human body, ethical views and morals. How to implement and integrate safe & effective practice to deliver holistic and gold standard care to patients and families.

Name: Rosie Lawrence

Year of leaving: 2011

Course studied: Children's Nursing



**What was your favourite part of university?**

My favourite part of university was discovering who I really was myself, and getting to meet so many different people along the way. I had to balance home and work life which altered how I spent my social hours, but I honestly had my fair share of fun too. Everyone in your cohort will feel the same way that you do, that unity of discovering new beginnings with your peers is very rewarding. I also loved placements, being able to learn by experiencing things first hand was honestly what got me through the difficult days. I adored every ward I worked on, and I still miss so many children I have worked with. Being a part of such intimate moments with patients and families can be so humbling and rewarding.

**What was the transition like between studying at school and university?**

It's a huge change! Which is definitely a shock to the system, as my mentor used to say "I'm taking the spoons away, you'll have to learn to feed yourself". I hated it back then and it felt like a punishment, but now I know the rewards of finding information yourself and completing work that is completely your own. I worked hard to achieve my full potential, there were times when I wanted to quit because the work was difficult nonetheless I'd pick myself back up and work harder the next day. Don't panic, college prepares you for what is about to come your way. I got a distinction in my first college assignment and barely passed my first university coursework, showing me the level I needed to reach. I finished with a 2:1 with Honours and I'm proud!

**What have you done since leaving university?**

Since leaving university I started working within a Paediatric Accident and Emergency as a Staff Nurse, which I adore. I thrive within high pressure situations and taking control of the mania, it's a great way to manage my problem solving skills. Since leaving university I haven't stopped planning towards my future, I'm already thinking about advancing my studies with a Masters in Forensic Psychology. I will be returning to university in January to complete a top up degree in children's emergency nursing which I am very excited about, shows how much I loved it really!

## If you have time, we have some additional questions:

### **Which, if any, societies were you involved with while studying?**

I would have loved to have been involved in societies and been able to commit my time however I had a very full home life! So my advice, don't do life backwards like I did, enjoy every moment of university because you'll miss it once it's gone.

### **How did you find the workload?**

It can be a real headache, and due in 3 months might seem like the longest time in the world but it's not while you're out having fun your 3000 word assignment has crept up on you and is due next week... it's not the best idea and I would not recommend. Start the work early and lay your ground work, set aside 2-3 hours a week per assignment and you'll manage and get those grades.

### **How did you financially support yourself while studying?**

I was very lucky and was entitled to the NHS bursary scheme and student finance, a few of my class mates had part time jobs to help with their funding. If I didn't have my son at home while being a full time carer for my own mother I would have had a part time job too, I definitely would have looked for something I enjoyed. Occasionally I completed shifts as a Health Care Assistant (HCA) which really helped boost my finances as they do pay quite well.

### **Any other comments...**

Enjoy school now! It will be over before you know it and you'll miss it so much. I'd give anything to spend one day being back in class with my girls, although I'm not sure the teachers would!