



Name: Zoe Milne
Job Title: Clinical assistant
Organisation: Johnson and Johnson
Qualifications: Higher national certificate (HNC) in applied science
Salary: £20,000- £25,000
Registers: Registered Science Technician (RSciTech)

About me and my job:

I work as part of the clinical operations team as a clinical assistant. My job is to support the clinical research associates with study preparation and to support the day to day running of our clinic laboratory sites. I enjoy the variety which my job role can offer me. I also have many opportunities to travel internationally to support clinical trials.

At school, I found the sciences truly fascinating. I knew when I left school that I wanted to go off and study the sciences. I decided to take a gap year before going off to university as I wasn't ready to move to the big city! During my gap year, the opportunity arose for me to complete an apprenticeship in life sciences with a Johnson & Johnson company in my home town. I completed my apprenticeship and was offered a permanent position. I currently still work for the same company and have achieved two promotions since graduating from my apprenticeship.

I hate to say it but what I found most surprising was the amount of things which you learn at school that you think 'I will never use that when I leave school'. It is amazing how learning to follow basic lab instructions in school when doing a practical experiment can set you up for later life. In industry, most experiments are conducted in a similar fashion where you are given an instruction for a study design and you must follow it exactly.

Advice about the sector:

A science subject as well as maths is useful for a job in this sector. The opportunities are endless; the wonderful thing about the science industry is how cross functional it is. Every aspect of life begins and ends with science. Whatever your interest may be in, there will always be a career for you in the science industry, which will cater to your strengths and interests.

A career in science can offer you so many opportunities. I have loved every moment of my career in the life sciences industry and I have achieved more than I could have ever imagined.