

Craig Worton

Craig's Story.....

Craig left university with a Master's Degree in Physics. After a period of 18 months unemployment and keen to get work experience he accepted a part-time receptionist post in March 2013 with Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living.



A year later, when Craig was 25, he was interviewed by GCIL Equality Academy for the Professional Careers Programme. He was delighted to be offered a 24 month salaried work placement, starting March 2014, within the Equality Academy as a Business Development Trainee. As part of his role, Craig received on the job experience developing his knowledge of policy reviews

and audits, business development and understanding the Equality Academy operating environment and market. Craig developed a range of skills from communication, negotiation, persuasiveness, monitoring and evaluation and committee skills as well as event organisation. Craig also began his SVQ Level 3 in Business and Administration and completed procurement and Social Return On Investment training.

Supported by the Professional Careers Programme, Craig made an application through DWP Access to Work programme for reasonable adjustments to his working environment. He was assessed and granted funding for a range of equipment, including Supernova (text to speech and magnification software), bone conducting headphones and a large print keyboard.

Following the partnership agreement in the first half of 2015 between GCIL Equality Academy, Scottish Government and NHSScotland to fill 22 disabled graduate posts across NHSScotland regional and special boards Craig was encouraged to apply for a post. After a successful interview he accepted a role and in November 2015 he started working as a Policy Manager within the Scottish Government Health Workforce Directorate, Everyone Matters Team. His role involves assisting with 'Everyone Matters' implementation plan, project managing the Health Workforce contribution to the NHSScotland conference and contributing to the development of the 'iMatter' resources.

Craig is now commuting between Glasgow and Edinburgh.

The Scottish Government has agreed similar reasonable adjustments. They commissioned an assessment carried out by RNIB Scotland (Royal National Institute of Blind people), identifying his access requirements at work. In addition to software and hardware Craig has the flexibility to work from Glasgow on some occasions.

At the end of his placement with GCIL Equality Academy Craig commented:

“My time with GCIL has been a great opportunity to build a long term sustainable career. I would like to pass on my thanks for the opportunity to prove myself in a professional environment and for the opportunities throughout my placement. I would also like to pass on my thanks for all the support I have received during my placement which I feel has been first class”