

Daniel Kelly

Daniel's story...



In 2012 Daniel graduated with a First Class degree in Politics and Public Policy from the University of Glasgow, before completing an MSc in Marketing the following year at the University of Strathclyde.

After graduating he was employed for 18 months within what was the Public Health Division of the Scottish Government, supporting Ministers on topics such as health inequalities, obesity and health in work. This included writing speeches and putting together briefings on behalf of Ministers and senior staff, as well as acting

as official support at external events, Parliamentary debates and committee appearances. This fixed-term policy role ended shortly before the Equality Academy's Professional Career Programme partnership with NHSScotland was advertised in July 2015.

After successfully negotiating the application process for the programme, at the age of 24, Daniel was offered a two-year Strategic Development Officer role with his preferred placement, NHS Health Scotland (the health board with responsibility to address Scotland's health inequalities).

In this role Daniel has contributed to the development of the organisation's long-term corporate strategy, seeing the project through from its initial development (in October 2015) to the sign-off of the strategy documents by the Board (in March 2017). This involved co-ordinating a number of project groups and workstreams; engaging with key stakeholders and analysing their feedback; and helping to draft the final strategy document itself. Throughout his placement Daniel also took up opportunities to widen his personal development, such as representing NHS Health Scotland at the 2016 NHSScotland Event and attending formal project management training.

Daniel has had Type 1 Diabetes since he was nine years old. Although this is an unseen condition, which hasn't required specific adjustments to the workplace, the demands of balancing workload and managing blood glucose levels can be supported by accommodating colleagues.

Alongside his fellow graduates from the programme's Peer Support Group, Daniel led on the Equality Academy's own research into accessibility in employment within NHSScotland. This included him co-ordinating and writing up the evidence gathered by one of the three project groups, before presenting a set of recommendations to representatives of NHSScotland / Scottish Government (March 2017) and the NHSScotland Equality & Diversity Leads Group (May 2017).

After 18 successful months with NHS Health Scotland, Daniel earned himself a permanent position, putting his qualifications and previous work experience to good use by successfully applying for the role of Marketing Officer.

At the end of his time on the programme Daniel said:

"The Professional Careers Programme came along at the perfect time for me, and offered me an ideal opportunity within the NHS that I might not otherwise have got".

"I'm grateful to the staff from the Equality Academy, NHSScotland and the Scottish Government, who have all been involved in making the Programme work so well. When I applied I was interested in continuing to work in public health, but the Equality Academy found me a placement with NHS Health Scotland that fitted my background and career goals perfectly".

"The regular review meetings with my placement supervisor (Marjorie) helped to address any issues that came up. But just as importantly they also focused on recording everything I'd achieved, the skills I'd developed and the experience I'd gained – which I found really helpful when applying for permanent jobs".

"The Professional Careers Programme offered me a route into a permanent job with NHS Health Scotland, and has given me the perfect platform to keep building my career."