

Lance Jukes

Currently working as... a Staff Nurse in ED

Joined the RUH as... a Health Care Assistant

How long have you been at the RUH? 10 years (with a period of three years spent in nurse training)

Where do you live? Bath

Where are you from originally? Radstock

"I started out as an HCA on Philip Yeoman and Respiratory wards at the RUH. I instantly knew that nursing was what I wanted to do with my life and, with the encouragement of my brilliant colleagues, I applied for nurse training. I was accepted immediately with an unconditional offer, and spent the next three years at UWE.

"All of my placements were at the RUH. I enjoyed every one of them, but when I came into ED something in me clicked. I knew this was where I wanted to work. I wanted to deal with all the 'big, scary stuff'!

"I spent a year working on SAU after graduating. I knew how vital it was to have found my feet as a nurse before coming to ED – all nurses are expected to have at least a year's experience under their belts before applying for a job in ED at the RUH.

"Although I came to ED armed with knowledge and experience from an acute setting, it was still a nerve-wracking experience. It's a completely different ballgame from nursing on the wards. In ED, you are seeing all patients 'fresh' – you don't have the safety net of falling back on your specialism.

"When you work in ED, you are the first medical face a patient will see. You are dealing with people who are scared and often at their most-vulnerable. You only get one chance at making a first impression – and that first impression will set the tone for the rest of that patient's journey through the hospital. Getting it right at the front door is vital. It takes a certain kind of person to meet that challenge.

"I can see where I want to go next with my career and the Band 7s have been very supportive in helping get me there. I want to become a Band 6, so that's what I am working towards right now. I have also been involved in a Major Incidence Planning group – working together with my colleagues from the ambulance Trusts on planning emergency responses to chemical, biological, and radioactive attacks.

"That's what I love about working here – if an opportunity arises that will help you to develop personally, and which could benefit the department, you will be fully supported to take it.

"I have been in ED for three years now, and I see myself staying for a very long time."

"RUH is the endgame for me. It's exactly where I want to be"

"There are clear and varied paths to take your career down in ED. And your choices grow as you progress"