


Alumni profiles - Emily Willis

MBChB (2005)

ST3 Paediatric trainee, North West Deanery

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What are your career experiences since graduating from the University of Birmingham?

After graduation I completed foundation posts in Wolverhampton and Walsall, incorporating various specialties including A+E, paediatrics, GP, general medicine and general surgery. I then applied for Paediatric specialist training. I got an ST post in the North West Deanery so moved up to Manchester in summer 2007. Since gaining my ST post I've completed my postgraduate exams, gaining the MRCPCH in June 2009, and have enjoyed working in a variety of different areas of paediatrics including oncology, rheumatology and neonatal medicine.

What is the best thing about what you are doing now?

An enjoyable, varied specialty.

What was the best thing about your time as a student here?

The friends I made at Birmingham are friends for life - despite many of us moving away from Birmingham over the last couple of years we remain in regular contact. The social life in the Medical School and University was excellent. I particularly enjoyed being a member of ARTE (the Medical School theatre society) and being part of many musical productions. Living in Chamberlain Hall during the first year was a great chance to meet loads of different people, not just those on my course. Summer on the Vale after exams were over, and of course the Vale fireworks.

In what way did living and studying in Birmingham live up to your expectations?

Birmingham was a friendly place to live and study, a great campus atmosphere.

What advice would you give to current students studying on your degree programme?

Enjoy it, try not to get too stressed with the work as there's plenty of time for that after graduation! Make sure you keep up your hobbies/get involved with groups and societies - this becomes particularly important by the final year when exams loom, you need to have some outside interests to keep you going.

How did you grow as a person by coming to University? Did it change your life in any way?

Became much more independent and self-confident.