

## Health and social care sector

### **Joanna Tissington**

#### **Is studying for the Advanced Diploma in Nursing Studies**

Joanna hopes to become a Community Nurse.

#### **What are you studying?**

The Advanced Diploma in Nursing Studies—Adult Nursing, at Sheffield Hallam University.

#### **What were you doing before this?**

BTEC National Diploma in Care at Dearne Valley College. Auxiliary Nurse at Barnsley Hospital from 2005 to present. Sales assistant at Evans, Barnsley.

#### **What do you think of your course?**

“It’s hard work but it’s worth it. It’s given me skills and baseline knowledge for my job.”



#### **When did you first consider higher education?**

In order to achieve her career goal, Joanna knew she needed to pursue higher education. Through her BTEC course, she learned what attending university would entail and the reason it was necessary.

#### **What were your concerns about starting a higher education course?**

Financial. Transition from further education to higher education—what the work load would be like. Meeting new people.

#### **What will you use your qualification for?**

“To get my job!” Joanna hopes to become a Community Nurse. She then wants to go back to university and achieve her District Nurse Degree. In the event that Joanna gets a job on a ward, rather than in the community, she would like to return to education and top up to a Degree and also top up in Midwifery for the purpose of becoming dual qualified.

#### **What advice would you give to others considering higher education?**

“Really research your course before you apply for it. Think—is it really what you want to do? A lot of students drop out because they didn’t realise how big a workload it really is and they think ‘I just don’t want to do this’. Move away from home, because then you get the real student experience rather than staying at home and remaining in your old life.”

