



**Student:** Jake Simpson  
University of Sussex

**Placement:** Brighton &  
Sussex University Hospital

**Role:** Radiotherapist

*"I found myself strongly considering medical physics as a future career but realised I had no real idea of what it entailed."*

### **Describe a typical day:**

The majority of my placement work was crafting a piece of VBA software. This software would take data from a piece of equipment and calculate a variety of qualities of the X-ray beam it measured. A typical day was largely coding in the medical physics department offices. Occasionally we would take some data on the linear accelerators after clinical use had finished in order to pursue an investigation of one of the beam qualities.

### **Why did you decide to do a placement?**

I felt I needed work experience previous to trying to get a medical placement for future employability. I found myself strongly considering medical physics as a future career but realised I had no real idea of what it entailed.

### **Would you recommend doing a placement?**

Absolutely. It's been a rewarding experience that has shown me the kind of work I may find myself doing in the future.

### **How do you think doing a placement has benefited you for the future?**

If I choose to pursue a career in the field, the relevant experience will help me beat competition. If not, the work experience will be still useful.

### **What are your next steps?**

I need to finish my Physics BSc degree, it now being the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final year. Afterwards I will likely need a break from studying and work. I'll have to decide on a course of action then, whether to pursue medical physics or look to other careers.

### **Employer perspective:**

Having a student to help with the project I've been running has been very helpful. It's something that has often been put to one side in favour of more pressing issues. I'd therefore say that this placement has been very successful. It just so happened that there was a project I wanted to run that could be done by someone with Jake's knowledge & experience level.

[www.sepnet.ac.uk](http://www.sepnet.ac.uk) [www.facebook.com/physicsSkills](https://www.facebook.com/physicsSkills) [employerengagement@sepnet.ac.uk](mailto:employerengagement@sepnet.ac.uk)

SEPnet is part-funded by HEFCE until 2018