



## Orthoptic Support Workforce Case Study

# Meet Samantha

**Why did you choose orthoptics?** I fell into the world of Optics when I started working in an Opticians. I absolutely loved it and knew I wanted to start a career to do with eyes, with the ultimate goal of working in the Hospital Eye Service. I'm now an Ophthalmic Technician and love that I am making a difference with people's journey with their vision.

**What is a typical day like in your current role?** My days vary but most days will involve seeing patients at some point on their appointment, be that checking VA, imaging, doing a monitoring appointment with them, conducting other tests or even assisting in treatment clinics.

**Define your role in 3 words?** Variety, challenging, developing

**What is the best part of your role?** Knowing that even a small contribution on my part has made a lot of difference to a patient's day, and their diagnosis & treatment.

**What is the most challenging part of your role?** Keeping up with busy and fast-paced clinics, especially when short staffed.

**Any advice you'd like to give?** Find the fun in every day. Working in Ophthalmology can be stressful and challenging, it is good to find a bit of joy and an opportunity to share a laugh with colleagues to help lift your spirits during the day.

Also, take any opportunity to learn something. Ask your peers questions about things that you would like to know more about, I have always found the doctors and other clinicians more than willing to share their knowledge and expertise.



**Samantha**

Ophthalmic Technician  
Salisbury District Hospital



**“Knowing that even a small contribution on my part has made a lot of difference to a patient’s day, and their diagnosis and treatment.”**

**What do you look forward to in your career?**

The potential to go further. I have a keen interest to further my career by enrolling on the upcoming Orthoptic Apprenticeship. I am fascinated by this discipline and the variety that each day would bring with it. I have a particular interest in paediatrics, as I have had several occasions where I have assisted on these clinics and have been able to sit in and observe our Lead Orthoptist and our Paediatric Consultant with patients. I enjoy working with children, and I did spend some time in an opticians practice doing visual therapy for accommodation and convergence and eye tracking.

I am working on an OCT interpretation diploma currently and I will have the opportunity to choose one of three specialist modules- I am looking to take on the Paediatric and Inherited diseases module to complete my qualification.

**What skills do you find essential for your job?**

Communication. Having that ability to listen and also speak with patients so that they understand what is happening. A willingness to learn and develop further is also vital as there are always developments in technology as well as our understanding and knowledge of the eyes and all the various ways they can be affected.



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