

Academic Lecturer Stories

Meet Louise

Why did you decide to become a lecturer? I really enjoyed learning more about orthoptics, particularly in my area of interest and there is no better way to learn more than by teaching.

How would you define your role in 3 words?
Challenging, interesting, exciting.

What do you love most about your role?
Learning.

What skills do you find essential for your job?
Flexibility, self-compassion, pragmatism.

What is a typical day like in your current role?
As an NIHR research fellow I am following my proposal which took around 12 months to write. Typically, I will continue with my literature review, learn something new that I have identified in my personal/researcher development plan such as watching an e-lecture or apply notes from a recent meeting. I will also ensure that my records are up to date on meetings, finances, and approvals for my research project.

What is the most challenging part of your role?
Making sure that I am working on the right things at the right time.

Any advice for people considering becoming a lecturer in orthoptics? Go for it - you will learn along the way, transitioning from orthoptist to lecturer is a big but exciting career change that complements your continual development in the field.

What are your aspirations in your career? To become an independent researcher and one day supervise PhD students, undertaking research about eye care for children with special educational needs.



**Louise
Allen**

Orthoptic Lecturer and
NIHR Research Fellow
University of Liverpool

