Getting into industry

After completing her degree, Fareha Nagi wasn’t sure what role she wanted to go into, but she was certain that she didn’t want to work in a lab. ‘I started my career as a Global Trials Assistant for Roche, as part of my sandwich degree, and the role suited me due to its location and responsibilities.’

After graduation, Fareha moved into clinical research. She started working as a Junior Clinical Research Associate for Novella Clinical, helping staff in hospitals and clinics adhere to clinical trial protocols. After progressing to a Senior CRA, she decided to move into a more global role within health-care company Allergan to work as a Principal Study Management Associate.

‘My next move was to go into Study Management in GlaxoSmithKline, working as a Regional Study Manager. I was mainly responsible for clinical trials across Europe, but over time I took on additional responsibilities for several regions and started working as a Global Study Manager.’

Sandwich year support

It was Fareha’s sandwich year that provided the insight which set her on her current career path and she recommends making the most of a year in industry. ‘Your sandwich year gives you a real insight into the industry, what you want to do and what you don’t want to do. I don’t think that I would be at this current stage in my career had I not worked during my sandwich degree.’

Her degree also continues to be useful today, by providing Fareha with a grounding of clinical trials, the body and drug interaction. ‘While I don’t use knowledge from my degree every day, it really helps when reading and writing clinical trials protocols and related documents.’

Future plans

Fareha’s current position is a result of her previous experience in the clinical world. She was keen for a new challenge and this role provided her with the perfect opportunity for a change. ‘I provide guidance on good clinical practice for clinical trials to doctors, researchers and colleagues within the pharmaceutical industry.’

In the future, Fareha is keen to continue progressing within her current department, learning more about good clinical practice and other quality assurance functions. ‘As well as developing my career, I’d love the opportunity to work abroad at some stage.’