

Case study 2- Emma

Emma graduated in October 2010 as an adult nurse. She mentored nursing students for 2 years. She also volunteered for Student Recruitment at the University.

As a student mentor, Emma looked after the concerns of new nursing students--both mature and very young females. Their issues differed; the mature student had to get used to studying after working and the younger student found it difficult to blend in with the older students.

Emma facilitated a workshop and gave a presentation to 5th and 6th year pupils on behalf of Student Recruitment. She led group work activities and talked about Edinburgh Napier University as a higher education institution of choice.

Skills gained

People skills

In her role as mentor, Emma put herself in the shoes of the mentees and felt she could relate exactly to what their challenges and anxieties were. As a nursing student, these qualities will stand her well in her nursing career. Emma believes her respect for others has grown as she learned to relate and sympathise with those in distress.

Professional skills

Working with high school pupils helped Emma deal with challenging behaviour. She learned how to manage a boisterous audience while giving instructions and delivering a public address. Presentation giving will be useful on the ward when she is talking to students on placement, not to mention at her forthcoming interviews.

Personal skills

Emma thinks that volunteering has given her different skills from those she gained as a nurse on placement. For example, she used her initiative, adjusting her lesson plan to suit her audience in the recruitment/school setting. By sharing her academic knowledge with her mentees, Emma felt her confidence and self awareness were enhanced.