



My Marvel Experience

Sam - General Nurse



About Sam

I am Sam, I'm 41 and I work in acute general nursing. I became a nurse due to a hospital experience I had in my early 20's and decided that's what I wanted to do.

I am married with 2 kids and 2 dogs. We enjoy camping and we go walking – a lot.

What made you switch from NHS to agency nursing?

Working in the NHS was difficult. I found that I was unable to balance work and family. Childcare finished at 5pm but my long days finished at 8pm. Childcare was also expensive, almost the equivalent to a second rent or mortgage for the month. We just couldn't carry on the way we were.



Working for an agency means that I can work around my family and what they need. The balance is so much better for us, and I am able to spend more time with my kids without having to rely on other family members to babysit or pay for childcare.



Better work-life balance

I now work around my family. I can make sure I am there to pick the kids up from school, I work around birthdays and Christmas so much easier than I ever did in the NHS.

My youngest also has a few health issues that are going to need some hospital stays in the next few months and I know it just won't be an issue getting the time to be with her.

More flexible hours & pay

I currently work less hours for the same money. However, if we have an event or holiday coming up I know I can pick up extra shifts easily.



What are the benefits of agency nursing?



Why

Bluestones

Medical?



A supportive team

I came to Bluestones from another agency. The other agency was based in Essex, and I found that I had never met anyone who worked there. I knew of Bluestones anyway and once I started looking into them, I was sold. The office is close to where I live, so I have met the consultants.

I also really loved the idea of the training courses available. Revalidation as agency can be difficult but they make it so much easier.



I struggled a few months back with Covid burnout. Having worked the entire pandemic, I found myself exhausted. The team are easy to speak to and really understanding. I took a few days for myself to recuperate and went back to work.



Did you have any initial worries? How were these resolved?

I always get nervous about visiting a new hospital or ward. You never know what to expect. Even now, after working agency for 7 years in total, I still get nervous. I have worked acute medicine since I qualified but the job is always the same wherever you go.

The clinical experience I have gained since working as agency is phenomenal.

Any advice for future Bluestones Medical Marvels?

You have nothing to lose and everything to gain!



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