

Job title: Senior Analytical Manager

Current employer: The Health Foundation

Sector: Health/Third Sector

Tell us about your current role and organisation.

The Health Foundation is an independent charity committed to bringing about better health and health care for people in the UK. We believe good health and health care are key to a flourishing society.

I am a Senior Analytical Manager within the data analytics directorate where our focus is to ensure that everybody's health and care benefits from analytics and data-driven technology. My role is to support the development and delivery of collaborations using linked health and care data, with a focus on the Networked Data Lab. The Networked Data Lab is new collaborative network of advanced analytical teams using linked health and care data across the UK, who will work together on shared challenges and promote the use of analytics in improving health and social care.

What sort of person would this role suit? (i.e. personal skills, qualities and values)

This role would suit someone with strong analytical and statistical skills and an ability to work across multiple teams and manage stakeholders. This person should value team work and have an interest in how data can be used to improve health care services, as well as health.

What does a normal working day look like for you?

As we're in the design phase of the Networked Data Lab, my normal working day usually involves thinking about how best to design processes to ensure that we meet our objectives, for example how do we prioritise analytical topics and enable different stakeholders to feed into this process. I also spend a large portion of my time speaking to stakeholders to understand how we could work together or how the outputs from our analysis could be used to help them in their roles. I'm looking forward to moving into the analytical phase where we will be able to start carrying out analyses and synthesizing results.

How did you get to where you are now? (i.e. what are the entry-level roles graduates would apply for to get where you are?)

I started my career as an actuary which provided me with a very strong foundation in statistics and gave me exposure to the health environment.

How would you go about getting experience (*placements, work experience, internship*) in the industry you work in?

Joining communities such as AphA analysts, the NHS-R community and R ladies is a great way to meet people working in this area and to hear about opportunities for placements. It's also always useful to keep an eye on the One Health Tech jobs board for interesting opportunities in health care.

What are the biggest challenges you face in your work?

As we are a team that is bringing together multiple partners to work together over a few years on a range of different analytical topics, one of the biggest challenges we face as a team is how to develop a vision that everyone buys into and how to ensure that everyone continues to engage with this project where there will be other competing priorities.

What's the progression like/where do you see yourself going from here?

Part of what I love about my role is that I'm able to develop a range of skills that are transferrable to many different environments. In the future I hope to be leading a team of analysts or researchers who are using data to help reduce inequalities and improve health and care services.

What top tips would you pass on to students interested in this type of work? (i.e. any particular skills, knowledge, experiences, volunteering, extracurricular activities)

Be curious and read widely about health and care. Strong statistical skills and programming skills (i.e. in R) are essential.