

Katherine Buchanan

Principal Podiatrist



What does your job entail?

I had always wanted to become a nurse, however my parents were medical and encouraged me not to go for a career that involved shift work, having to work weekends and Christmas's. So I applied for Occupational Therapy and Podiatry, and got accepted to do Podiatry. The rest is history....

How did you get into this line of work?

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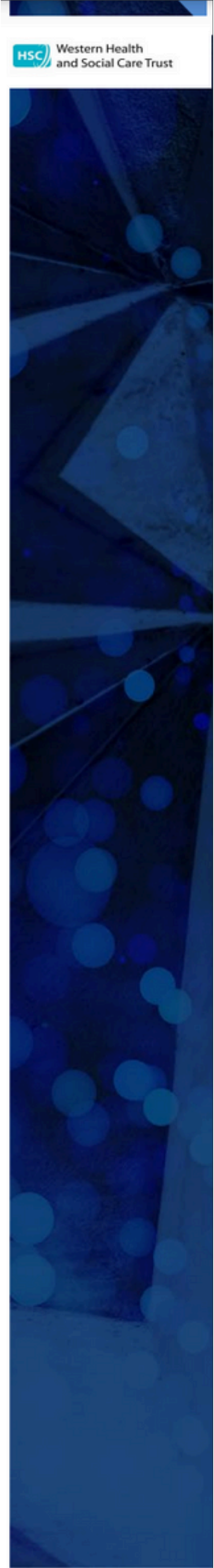
Outline your career to date?

After I completed my A levels I went to Queen Margaret University College in Edinburgh to complete my BSc (Hons) in Podiatry. When I finished I secured a temporary post in Stornoway in the Western Isles of Scotland, where I practiced as a Senior 2 podiatrist for 6 months prior to securing a permanent post in the Foyle Trust back in my home town in 2000.

In 2006, I decided to take a break in service, and went to live in an outback town, Kalgoorlie in Western Australia. I worked as the only podiatrist in the local hospital, and there treated the 'High risk' foot, which means people with ulcerations, amputations and also those on kidney dialysis.

In 2009, I returned home, and completed a few master modules, applied for an acting up band 7 diabetes specialist post in Altnagelvin, this lead to other temporary band 7 posts, and eventually securing one permanently.

When the Principal podiatrist post came up, I felt I had enough qualifications and experience to go and give the interview a go.



Tell us about your qualifications and training?

I qualified with a BSc (Hons) in Podiatry from QMUC. I then went on to complete masters modules in the diabetes foot, and vascular. I also completed my non-medical prescribing to allow me to take my treatment of patients to another level.

I have also completed courses on joint mobilisation, acupuncture, myofascial tendon release and ultrasound therapy, as well as keeping up with CPD to ensure I meet the standards for Health Care Professions Council.

What qualities do you feel are required for your job – personal and professional?

I believe in a good work ethic. I do not believe in letting my patients down. I would do them a disservice. I also feel that you need to be approachable both by staff and patients. Patients need to be able to build a good rapport with you, and they are more likely to comply with treatment plans.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

Have a look at Allied Health Professional careers.

A little bit more about me ...

In my hay-day I used to be in the triathlon club in Australia, and enjoyed running half marathons. I now find that a slower pace suits me better, and you will find me crocheting in a corner somewhere.

What advice would you give your 16-year-old self?

You just need to work hard to get to the next stage of life. You do not need to be an A student to make something of yourself. Always aim high!

