



**What's it like being a: Graduate Trainee Research Executive
(Healthcare Market Research Agency)**

What are the main responsibilities of your role?

Provide support at most stages of quantitative and qualitative research projects. This includes support in set-up and freelancer briefings, field work, analysis and presentation preparation. I often attend set-up meetings and presentations, conduct telephone and face to face interviews, and draft presentations.

What key skills are required in your role?

Organisation and time management are really important, as you may be juggling many projects all at different stages, at any one time. Project output can be very fast, so it's important to be able to produce high quality work to tight deadlines. Team work is important – sometimes you will have time to help others with their projects, which means they will in turn be able to help you when pushed to meet a deadline.

What is a typical day like in your job?

I may be working on a few projects in any one day. On a day in the office I maybe creating a PowerPoint presentation for qualitative project, and conducting telephone interviews with sales reps or patients. I may need to brief freelancers on projects that are moving into fieldwork. Sometimes I may be conducting face to face interviews with Drs in hospitals, with patients at home, or helping with focus groups in central locations, or may be accompanying a sales rep on an observational field day. I also attend presentations.

What are the most enjoyable/most challenging aspects of your role?

I really enjoy the presentations – seeing how all the hard work comes together. I enjoy getting the chance to be a bit more creative, and come up with novel ways to present results in qualitative projects. I also enjoy face to face interviews, where I really get to probe into thoughts and feelings of the patient/health care professional.

How did you get into Healthcare MR?

I studied Biology at university, and was looking for a career which would make use of my skills and knowledge developed, but wanted to avoid any tedious lab work! I was sent emails, and received a phone call about the role from a recruitment agency. After some further research, I decided the career was just what I was looking for!

What are the career/personal development opportunities available?

There is a well defined career pathway, giving you the opportunity to progress to research executive grade 2, senior research exec, project manager, and project director. You are given the chance to attend courses to develop your skills.

What do you think is the most attractive thing to new comers about your job?

Variety – you work of a range of projects which require different approaches. You are certainly challenged!