

OPEN Recruitment News

PROFILE

My Locum Life.

by

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The main reason I became a locum was the flexibility to take time to study for further exams to work in the USA, as a locum I can plan to work when it suits me. In permanent roles new graduates often get stuck working Xmas, New Year etc. I think this is one of the benefits of being a locum!

As a new grad, I wanted to have experience of lots of practices before finding a permanent position and locum work has really helped show me what I would like from my place of work. Every practice I have been to has been different; the people, the standards of medicine, the clients, it's so interesting to see! It's also been good working with specialists as I've learned so much from them! It's so interesting to see how different vets work, I always take away loads of good ideas from each place I work at!

It's been really interesting to travel all over England as I have hardly travelled in the UK previously! For me being away from family and friends has been good as I am able to work and study with less distraction! For some people this could be a disadvantage as with some small towns or very short -term jobs it takes a while to get a social life together! In fact some people think it's a little lonely to locum but I've never found it a problem and have always found it easy to make new friends wherever I have been!

Another great thing about locum work and another massive reason I do it is that I can earn twice as much as my new graduate friends in permanent jobs, which allows me to take time off and pay for all my exams!

I've met some really good friends through locuming it's a good opportunity to meet people! Most places I've worked at have been lovely but if I do work somewhere that I don't like I know it's only for a short time and I don't have to get involved in any practice "politics"!

Free accommodation is a massive bonus, although some flats I've stayed at have been a little basic! Often locums live at the practice in a flat upstairs, which is good for not having to drive to work and for an extra lie in but it can sometimes make you feel that you never leave work!

As for the negatives; not that much really, getting used to computer systems is one of the hardest things! Sometimes out of hours work when you don't know where everything is and how to work the x ray and lab machines etc! as a locum you are often expected to just get on with things and not to need much support which as a new grad I found a little stressful, but it's been good for me to be thrown in at the deep end and 10 months on I'm glad it's been this way as I've had so much experience already and my decision making and my confidence have improved a lot!

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For more information about becoming a locum, please contact Natalie Oakley on (+44) 0121 712 7822.