

Central London Forward Into Work – Candidate Case Study

Quarter/year: Q3 2015/2016
Provider: Cardinal Hume Centre
Name of candidate and employer: Tariq* / Missio

**Tariq - candidate has asked for no photo to be used in case study*

Born and raised in Kensington & Chelsea, Tariq, 30, had been out of work for over five years before he came to the Cardinal Hume Centre. He had previously spent his time partly as a registered volunteer carer and as a volunteer carer, before he focused upon moving into full-time work and was supported by the Cardinal Hume Centre into his current role of administration assistant at Catholic charity, Missio.

Prior to engaging with the Cardinal Hume Centre, Tariq had some experience of working as a production assistant for a West London production company, before being required to care for a family member, working as a DWP registered carer. Tariq worked as a carer (both paid and unpaid) for over seven years, before he seized the chance to focus upon his own career.

When Tariq came to the Cardinal Hume Centre, he had been working hard to find roles in administration, but had only been invited to one interview. Seeing the potential in Tariq, Ben and the Employment Team worked with him to develop his CV, cover letter, interview skills and his general approach to job applications. Initially Tariq attended interviews and assessment centres for several roles in the charity and business sectors, however it became clear that his lack of office experience was preventing him from succeeding with his applications. Ben explains:

‘For Tariq it was quite frustrating. He knew he had the relevant skills and had the ability to develop within the roles he was applying for, but found it difficult to get his foot in the door. For Tariq to succeed he needed to get some actual work experience; it had been over six years since he’d worked in an office.’

Working with the Employment Team’s employer partners, Ben successfully set up seven weeks’ work experience for Tariq – one week with Pret a Manger’s Pret Foundation Team and six with the finance team at Missio. Tariq excelled in both placements gaining enthusiastic feedback from Nicki Fisher, Pret’s Head of Sustainability and Cedric Burke, Director of Finance at Missio. Cedric explains:

‘Tariq adapted well to our style of working and proved himself to be an excellent addition to the team. Had I recruited Tariq on the open market, I would be extremely satisfied with my appointment.’

Nicki Fisher commented:

‘Tariq was a wonderful addition to my team displaying enthusiasm, creativity and reliability. He is of good character, and I have no hesitation in recommending him.’

Upon completion of his placements with two glowing references, Tariq was keen to get job searching and get the role he knew was in his grasp. However, after a few weeks of finishing at Missio, Richard Hopper Missio's recruitment consultant and Cardinal Hume Centre trustee was in touch with the opportunity of paid work for Tariq.

Tariq attended an interview at Missio and was subsequently offered the role of administration assistant on an initial six month contract. Tariq started his role in August 2015 and hasn't looked back!

'I'm learning new skills and, most importantly, I am finding my confidence continue to grow. The team at Missio have been so supportive and I am determined to repay their faith in me.'

Talking about his experience of working with the Cardinal Hume Centre, Tariq said:

'I cannot thank Ben and the Employment Team enough. When it looked like I might be running out of options, Ben seemed about to come up with another rabbit out of the hat! The work experience at Pret and Missio gave me the chance to develop my skills and confidence to succeed in the workplace.'



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