

FPSA Grant report

My name is Ayesha, and I currently work as an Assistant Clinical Psychologist within a CAMHS specialist Neurodevelopmental Assessment Clinic. The qualifications that I hold include a BSc in Psychology and a MSc in Psychological well-being. Attending this training was detrimental for my career progression, as being able to support our service to improve patient experience.

Following from receiving the FPSA Grant, I attended the 'Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Second Edition: ADOS-2 – Training'. The training took place at Hogrefe House in Oxford and was delivered over 2 days between 3rd-4th July 2018.

The training aimed to allow me to become to be competent, and to develop skills in order to facilitate and score the ADOS-2 assessment, as well as operationalising the diagnostic criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). I believe these aims have been met. During the training, we explored the various different modules that can be used, as well as practiced scoring them to ensure a consistent high reliability rate. As outlined above, developing these skills has enabled me to facilitate these assessments. Many sources suggest children and young people that require an assessment for a Neurodevelopmental Condition such as Autism, have to wait an extensive amount of time which can result to waiting years (BBC News, 2018; Guardian, 2017). Receiving a diagnosis early on in the young person's life has proven to have many overall benefits, and would dramatically increase their well-being (Fernell, 2013).

I had a very positive experience of the training; the trainer was extremely accommodating and knowledgeable. The style of learning suited me very well personally. I will now be able to administer the ADOS assessment within my service to support Neurodevelopmental Assessments. I will also be able to support my team, and wider service with knowledge of ADOS assessments and characteristics of ASD.