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Hello, My name is Sam Abdulla. I am a registered nurse in learning disabilities and the field lead for learning disability nursing at Edinburgh Napier University. I completed an MSc in advanced practice in nursing (with applied education) in 2018 as part of the NHS Scotland early clinical careers fellowship.

My Journey to learning disability nursing began in 2008. I was employed as a support worker back home in Wales, at the time I was studying English literature with a view to becoming a teacher. As I moved through my degree, I found myself prioritising working with the people I supported, and I was completely drawn in. After two summers working with people with disabilities at Camp America, I knew I wanted to make more of a difference and started looking around. I found learning disability nursing, applied to start in September 2009, and I have not looked back since.

Alongside leading the learning disability field at Edinburgh Napier University; I hold a clinical role in NHS Lothian as a staff nurse. Before I joined Edinburgh Napier University, I held a staff nurse post as a community learning disability nurse & before that, working with children with complex needs

My role at Edinburgh Napier University includes lecturing, research, programme design and on occasion expert advisory. My impact on people with learning disabilities is now much more indirect than it once was: I teach future nurses, preparing them with the most current and appropriate evidence to better support health outcomes for people. That is where we as lecturers have the biggest influence, we polish up our students for good people with great values, to great nurses with great values.

Conducting research and disseminating findings allows me to still connect with people with learning disabilities and try to affect positive change to reduce health inequalities and improve health outcomes and quality of life.