

Anabel Watson

Foundation Degree in Plant Eng

Learner Case Study

Age: 22

Started at Gen2: 2015

Programme: Foundation Degree in Plant Engineering

Why did you apply for Gen2?

My dad worked in engineering and when at school I was extremely interested in Mathematics so my interest came from there. I heard about Gen2 via word of mouth from students in the year above me. I then attended a school talk at Workington Sixth Form and they told us about the TST scheme which I believe has since evolved into the current day degree programs.

Can you explain the application process?

I applied online via the Gen2 website. I had to submit a CV, answer some basic questions about my interests and why I wanted to do an apprenticeship. Once these were filtered through I was asked to sit a Gen2 aptitude test and a specialist aptitude test. I then was supposed to sit a speed interview session but instead had a full group interview assessment day. At the end of this day I was offered an interview for Jacobs.

How did you prepare for your interview?

I researched Jacobs and their ethos and mission, I also researched the nuclear industry as it is all relevant. I also had some maths revision as we were given a problem to solve during the interview. Other than that I just did some general interview prep.

What did you do during the first few weeks of your apprenticeship?

When I started in September 2015 I did a 16 week bridging course at Energus, this covered 10 different subjects in quite an intense period of time. These were followed by exams which I had to pass to start the degree program in January 2016.



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What did you think when you first arrived? Was it what you expected?

I wasn't very keen on the bridging course as I didn't used to be very good in new situations but after a few weeks, I go to know everyone and really started to enjoy the process.

In regards to Jacobs I have a great team and line manager and it made the transition a lot easier. The only struggle was the working hours in comparison to sixth form hours.

What sort of training have you done during your apprenticeship?

Where do I start? I've done a large amount of CPD through Jacobs, I've also been put through positive Mental Health training as part of my apprenticeship. I've done two secondments, one with Jacobs field services in Workington (bridges for CCC). The second was on site, looking at construction elements. It's been quite a vocational apprenticeship, as I've been with my employer since basically day one, meaning a lot of my training has taken place in the work place.

What is a typical working week?

40 hrs per week, Mon-Fri (half day Friday). Now that I've finished my apprenticeship I travel to Bolton on a Monday to do my one day of study.

What is the best bit about doing an apprenticeship?

The experience that I've gained from my colleagues has been amazing and I don't think I could get it in other situations. The experience I've gained from being in the workplace has helped me with my further studies.

What advice would you give someone who is thinking of applying / becoming an apprentice?

Apply for everything, keep your options open. At a young age it's difficult to know exactly what you want to do. Don't put your eggs all in one basket.



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What's the worst bit of an apprenticeship?

Although I've enjoyed my apprenticeship it has taken me slightly longer to pursue a career in Civils as the apprenticeship wasn't entirely dedicated to Civil Engineering

What are your intentions after your apprenticeship ends?

I'm currently studying for a BEng(Hons) Degree in Civil Engineering. Once I have completed this course I will look to become chartered. Other than that, I intend to stay working at Jacobs and progressing with my career.

What has been your biggest achievement since starting your Gen2 Apprenticeship?

Completing my Lv5 Foundation Degree In Plant Engineering, it was a lot of hard work but worth it.

What do you wish you had known before you arrived?

I wish I had known exactly what would have been covered on the course by doing a bit of extra research and maybe speaking with one of the tutors.



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