

Alec Little

City & Guilds Group Bursary Learner Case Study

Age: 16

Started at Gen2: 2018

Programme: City & Guilds Group Bursary - Access to Apprenticeship Programme

What did you do before applying?

I joined the City & Guilds Group bursary programme straight from school. I had applied for a mechanical apprenticeship with Gen2 but unfortunately was unsuccessful. I was undecided what to do but then I was contacted by Gen2 and they told me about the access to apprenticeship programme which was funded by the City & Guilds Group. The programme seemed like a really good way to start on my pathway to an engineering career and I knew I didn't want to stay on at school so I decided to join.

What did you do when you first arrived?

I started in 2018 with an induction into the access programme and was taught about health and safety in the workshop. After the induction we started work in the engineering workshop on a six week bench fitting programme. Bench fitting teaches you how to use tools and provides a basic understanding of engineering – I learned to use hacksaws, height gauges, radius gauges etc. I really enjoyed the bench fitting and know I will use the skills I learned for years to come.

How has your programme progressed?

After the bench fitting we were set a task to develop three project pieces. The projects were to create a pair of soft jaws, a bevel square and a drill drift. To create the project pieces you are taught how to work with different metals and use equipment such as saws, files and pillar drills. For each project piece you have to develop a risk assessment, then when you complete your work you write it up in your booklet and take photos of finished pieces ready for marking and feedback.

After our project pieces we spent several weeks in the pipefitting area and learned how to use more equipment such as pipe benders and pipe threaders which allow you to add a thread to the end of pipe. We continued to carry out work in the classroom before planning to move onto welding and eventually electrical engineering.

How has the City & Guilds Group Bursary helped you?

The City & Guilds Group bursary allow me to start my engineering career. The programme provided me with the skills and confidence to move on to a new community apprenticeship programme. I am now on a Level 2 mechanical apprenticeship and I am really enjoying the programme.

I am really grateful to the City & Guilds Group for giving me the opportunity to start my career.



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