

Joseph Phizacklea

Nuclear Degree Apprenticeship

Learner Case Study

Started at Gen2: 2016
Programme: Degree Apprenticeship (Level 6) in Plant Engineering (Nuclear Plant and Process Technology)

Why did you choose this apprenticeship?

I liked the idea of earning while I'm learning - not many degree pathways offer that kind of initiative. This apprenticeship not only gives you 5 years' experience, but is relevant to an industry that there is a high demand for.

What qualifications did you have prior to applying for the apprenticeship?

I completed my A Levels in 2016 with grades C and above in Physics, Maths and Chemistry

What skills/qualifications have you gained during your apprenticeship?

During my first term, I was predominantly in the classroom but in the last seven weeks, I've been based with my employer which is incredibly challenging, so it's definitely a stronger skills base I'm developing. I think being thrown in the deep end is good for you, as it teaches you to sink or swim.

How has the apprenticeship benefitted you?

I'm learning how to take what I'm learning in the classroom and apply it to my job. With many degrees, it's purely academic, but I'm being able to apply my knowledge that I'm learning one day to my job the next day. Industry based knowledge is key to my progression and this apprenticeship is definitely providing me with that.

On completing your apprenticeship, what is the next step of your career?

Ideally, I'd like to be based with my employer as I'm really enjoying being with them and they are a fantastic company to work for, but I know that this apprenticeship will open many doors for me so I'm excited to see what happens next.



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Degree Apprenticeship Nuclear Level 6

Learner Case Study

Age:

Started at Gen2: 2016

Programme: Degree Apprenticeship Nuclear Level 6 - Plant Engineering (Nuclear Plant and Process Technology)

What advice would you give someone thinking about applying for a science / engineering degree apprenticeship?

For me, it's a no brainer. Do it: you gain so much experience, both academically and professionally. Instead of having the clichéd student lifestyle, you're actually in the working world, which I think matures you. Make sure you do plenty of research into the apprenticeship though and speak to the right people.

How/where did you find your apprenticeship scheme and who did you talk through your options with?

My sixth form held a careers fair which Gen2 attended and I was really interested in the degree apprenticeship scheme. Like I said, I knew I wasn't keen on going to university but I still wanted to further myself academically. This scheme really appealed to me as it offered everything I was looking for in further education: gaining qualifications whilst earning a wage.

What are the challenges of working whilst studying?

For me, my location is an issue. Where I live in relation to where I have to work/study isn't exactly ideal. But it's something you learn to juggle with. The work/classroom based balance is at times difficult to juggle but I think it teaches you to not only be resilient, but how to manage your time effectively.

Are you aware of your opportunities for progression?

From everyone who I have spoken to, I know there is a high probability of me entering full time employment after this, but I know with Gen2 that the buck doesn't stop after you've finished your apprenticeship. There are various other schemes I could undertake such as my masters or other professional accreditations

