

## Apprenticeship Case Study

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**What were you doing in terms of career/education prior to your apprenticeship?**

Prior to my degree apprenticeship I had joined the Trust as an entry level IT apprentice and completed that successfully, which is what opened another apprenticeship possibility here for me.

**What made you apply to undertake this apprenticeship?**

I chose to undertake this apprenticeship because it represents a major milestone in my career, having the opportunity to work as an Infrastructure Engineer at my age is a huge step forward and something I am genuinely proud of. I saw this apprenticeship as an ideal stepping stone to build both my technical experience and professional confidence, while allowing me to develop real hands-on skills within infrastructure engineering. The added opportunity to gain a university degree alongside this, at no cost made the pathway even more valuable as it enables me to strengthen both my qualifications and long-term career prospects at the same time.

**What kind of support do you have from others whilst undertaking your apprenticeship? (e.g. College, uni, managers or peers)**

I have had plenty of support from my manager, specifically around needing the time or the advice for certain projects or him constantly feeding me good ideas. It makes this easier as my manager has previously done a similar course, so he understands the programme and demands of the apprenticeship which is even more valuable.

**What is the best thing about your apprenticeship?**

I believe the best thing about my apprenticeship is being surrounded by people who genuinely want me to succeed and support my development, both personally and professionally. Working with this environment has made learning enjoyable and motivating and it has helped me build confidence in my abilities. I also find the work itself quite engaging and rewarding; I love the job and the opportunity to progress further in my career. This apprenticeship has given me a clear direction in life allowing me to grow my skills while contributing to technology solutions and I am driven to make a meaningful difference within the industry.

**What is the most challenging part of your apprenticeship?**

I find the most challenging part of my apprenticeship is balancing the skills I develop on the job with the academic requirements at university. I am constantly learning new technical abilities while completing workplace tasks and at the same time working on university projects alongside this. Linking both areas so that my professional experience is relevant to my studies, and my studies to my role, can be demanding at times. However, this challenge also helped me strengthen my time management, adaptability and independent learning skills.

**How do you feel your apprenticeship has/or will influence your career path or future goals?**

My apprenticeship has already had a significant influence on my career path. It has given me a strong understanding of infrastructure engineering and the wider technology landscape, which has helped me achieve many of the goals I set for myself. The experience also has encouraged me to think about creating something bigger within this space in the future, whether that is developing a business idea or contributing to innovative projects alongside my role. Overall, the apprenticeship has provided clear direction, confidence and practical skills that will continue to shape my future objectives and long-term progression in the industry.

**What advice would you give to others who were considering applying for an apprenticeship?**

The advice I would give to anyone considering an apprenticeship is that it is absolutely worth it. Starting work at a young age or going back to education at an older age can feel daunting, and it takes real courage to take that step on, but that challenge is also what makes apprenticeship a powerful route. They allow young people to stand out by gaining practical hands-on experience instead of following only the traditional A-levels and degree pathway. After 2-3 years, you gain skills, confidence and career momentum that you would be unlikely to achieve elsewhere, and most apprentices never look back. It is one of the best ways to begin an early career in any industry you want to be in or move into, offering strong long-term prospects and potential to build a secure future.