



## Case Study: Daniel Hemming



### Profile

Now 20, Dan is approaching the end of his second year as an Electrical Installation Apprentice with Southern Electric Contracting (SEC – part of the Scottish & Southern Power Group).

Dan won the prize for best Technical Certificate student in his first year at SETA and is pictured receiving the Award, with his boss.

### Questions

#### ***What careers advice did you get at school?***

I did get careers advice but seem to remember that higher education and University were the routes they encouraged me to follow. I went on and did A levels, but it was my technology teacher who offered a wider perspective and got me interested in apprenticeships. A friend had been employed on an apprenticeship with ESSO, and my Dad had been a Royal Engineer, so all this started me exploring options on the internet.

I approached SEC; I wasn't accepted initially but I persevered through three interviews until it paid off and they were finally able to offer me an Apprenticeship!

#### ***Why did you choose an apprenticeship?***

The most important thing about an apprenticeship is that you are picking up a trade which is really important, and something you can take anywhere with you.

I was concerned that, after a degree course, I would end up with loads of debts and no skills or a trade which would be transferable. I am interested in maybe getting further qualifications in the future whilst being sponsored by my employer; maybe even a degree that way?!

#### ***Would you recommend apprenticeships to others? Why?***

I already have! It is a really good way of being able to earn while you learn. The great thing about it is that you can discover your strengths and emphasise the areas you want to work towards, which makes it a really well rounded opportunity.

My apprenticeship training had me do a full year at SETA in my first year. This meant I was able to keep my head really in the game whilst at SETA and concentrate on my qualifications there. I felt I learned very quickly, with an Instructor always on hand to answer questions. And the course was very practical and hands on, which meant it didn't take long to adjust when I started at work. I think this was good for my employer, too, as they knew exactly where I was for the first year, and because I had completed most of the qualifications 'up front', there is no day release for the following years; I do my NVQ 3 at work and my employer have me in their hands completely while I complete the apprenticeship. I think the success rate for me and others on this course speaks for itself!

#### ***Describe a typical day for you now. What sort of responsibilities do you have and what projects are you involved in?***

I enjoy my job partly because I get to be involved in such a diversity of work. I get on well with the people I work with and we travel refurbishing the electrics in depots and homes. I know I am learning skills which are in demand.

I am very grateful for my apprenticeship and do everything in my power to keep it and progress through it.