



YASMIN - STAR ENERGY MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS APPRENTICE



What does an average day look like for you?

I have finished a block of 20 weeks "Off-the-job" practical training at SETA and am now with my employer, Star Energy for four days a week. I still attend SETA one day a week to continue with my BTEC studies.

Whilst at work, an average day for me consists of initially checking my e-mails, and our internal online system for any work assigned for the day. This can be anything from conducting routine maintenance work such as checking the hose on a jet washer, through to tightening the bolts of a massive beam pump at the head of a "nodding donkey" oil well!

I would also check in with the Site Operator for the individual site that I am working on for that day to review tank levels and to see what tankers are due that day to collect oil. If a load of oil is due to be exported we need to make sure there is enough good quality oil in a stock tank to send off to a refinery.

I drive between sites in a company vehicle, as geographically I cover Hampshire, Sussex and up into Surrey as well. I'm looking forward to getting my own van in the near future!

What personal qualities do you think are important to do your job?

As a Maintenance and Operations Apprentice in the Oil sector I think being mechanically minded is important in understanding how the equipment works, and being able to fix faults when things go wrong.

Being able to multi-task well as you're in charge of doing so many aspects of running a site all at the same time, such as liaising with personnel and contractors, loading tankers when they arrive, and managing production of oil at all stages in the process.

How did you first become interested in engineering?

At school I was interested in science and took chemistry, physics and maths A-Levels at college. I have always been fascinated in knowing how things worked and as I got older I realised that I wanted to have a more practical and hands on career rather than go on to University.

Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship has given me practical experience and hands on training. There is still an element of paperwork and classroom learning involved which provides the accompanying theory to the practical work completed in the workshop.

But I feel that the ratio of classroom to workshop learning has been beneficial as you do not get bogged down with too much paperwork, as the instructors are there to help you get through it!

And of course I enjoy earning money and not having debt associated with my apprenticeship, as I pay no fees towards my learning.

