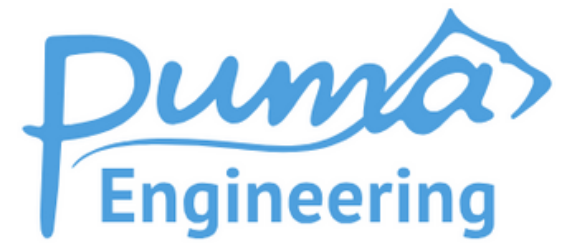


LOGAN LEVEL 2 WELDING APPRENTICE



What does an average day look like for you?

I am in the first year of my Level 2 apprenticeship training to be a Welder. I am doing this on a block release basis, so I will be attending SETA for various rotations throughout the year. When I am not there I will be training at my company.

During my time at SETA I travel there by train as I live quite a distance away. I get to SETA before 8am and this allows me to chat to the new friends I have made. Two of the other apprentices from my employer are also in my classes which is good, as we are all doing our apprenticeship at the same time.

Four days a week are spent in the workshop doing practical hands-on training which I enjoy the most, rather than the classroom work that we do on the other day of the week. If I'm not sure about something I always ask the workshop instructor and listen to their advice as I want to do well. I try to keep on top of my work as at the end of the rotation we have a test about the subject we have just completed.

During my breaks I meet up with other apprentices, some of whom are on the train home as well.

Why did you choose to do an apprenticeship?

I chose to do an apprenticeship as I wanted to do something different. I don't like learning in a classroom environment, so the practical aspect of an apprenticeship is great for me. I wasn't enjoying my previous role so this is challenging me. I like the fact that with welding you can stand back having actually manufactured something tangible.

I'd recommend SETA to anyone that is looking for an engineering apprenticeship if your employer chooses to send you there. I have found that I have built great relationships with other apprentices, as well as the teaching staff. I feel that my knowledge and skills have improved since starting. I know that I have a long way to go yet, but am loving what I'm doing!

What was your route in to engineering?

I was working in the removals industry for a few years where the salary wasn't that great, and I didn't really enjoy doing the same thing day in day out. I tried welding and fabrication with the equipment of someone I know and realised that I enjoyed making something and being proud of what I had achieved. When I found out that I had family working for a company that designs, manufactures and installs high-precision pressure products, I contacted them and was lucky enough to get an interview and am now doing an apprenticeship with them.

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

I think that you need to be hard working, motivated and have common sense to do well in engineering. If you don't understand something, then you need to be happy going to ask someone otherwise you're not going to learn. You need to be confident in your own ability and honest with yourself. Having a good sense of humour also helps in a workshop environment!

What has been your personal highlight so far?

Apart from everything that I'm learning for my apprenticeship, I would have to say that it's the people that I've met (both apprentices and instructors), and the friends that I've made. I feel that at SETA I am building proper relationships with people – I've met up with some of the other apprentices outside of SETA. It's pretty cool to be gaining knowledge & skills and making friends!

