

DJANGO LEVEL 3 ERF MAINTENANCE (CONTROL & INSTRUMENTATION) APPRENTICE



What was your route in to engineering?

After completing my GCSEs, I applied for an apprenticeship through www.gov.uk but was unsuccessful, so I decided to enrol on a college course instead. I gained a Level 3 City and Guilds Advanced Technical Diploma in Electrical Installation, but was continuing to apply for apprenticeships knowing that this is what I wanted to do.

Apprenticeships are so competitive to get into. The qualification from college gave me with the additional knowledge and skills that helped me to secure my current role. You need to have something that makes you stand out from all the other people applying for the vacancy.

How is your time spent at SETA?

I'm in the first year of my apprenticeship which is a whole foundation year on a full-time basis at SETA. The week is very busy with four days in the workshop doing practical sessions in a variety of engineering subjects. One day a week is the BTEC which forms the theory part. There is also homework as well. But there is more to it than just hitting the books! I've been lucky enough to meet new people, and we've managed to have some fun along the way. I do feel that the whole experience is shaping me into a more reliable adult, as well as gaining the skills needed for my role.

Why did you choose to do an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship was an easy choice for me. You get paid while studying for a qualification, avoiding student debt if you were going to university. You build connections with an employer and enter your chosen industry while learning. This gives you a chance to really prove yourself and show your grit, plus there's a job waiting for you at the end. I absolutely recommend an apprenticeship. It is the perfect mix of learning and earning.

What has been your personal highlight so far?

The biggest highlight for me is learning all the new skills and meeting some great people as we are all at the same start point of our careers.

I've been relocated to Southampton for the duration of my foundation year and my employer, Veolia, is paying for my accommodation. This is a huge opportunity not only from the apprenticeship point of view, but as an introduction to independence, and it's something I wouldn't have experienced otherwise.

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

I think you need four things to succeed. First is to have a good, positive attitude for every challenge. Second, teamwork is crucial, you always work with others. Third, you need to be curious. Asking as many questions as possible helps you to learn new things. Fourth is perseverance, stick with it when work gets tough. As long as you do all that and try your best you shouldn't go wrong. You don't need to know everything before you start, just be willing to learn.

Why did you choose to be an Apprentice Council Rep?

I joined the Apprentice Council as a chance to give apprentices a strong voice. The representatives on the Council are able to advise on any aspect of life at SETA, and feel listened to. It also provides the chance to develop real world leadership skills, better understand people and how to communicate issues between employees and management.

