



Lucy Fox-Russell Phase Two Apprentice

19 Year old Lucy started her engineering apprenticeship with Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) at Abbey Wood Bristol in September 2012.

She is currently in her first placement working in the Defender/Islander aircraft propulsion section in the Special Projects Multi-Air Platforms (SPMAP) Project Team.

Why Lucy chose this apprenticeship

Lucy was looking for an apprenticeship in engineering and thought that the ability to work with a wide variety and such interesting equipment meant that the DE&S apprenticeship stood out from any other apprenticeship available. The key things that attracted her were:

- All the qualifications are gained from completing the apprenticeship
- The flexibility to work within 4 different teams which gives the experience to make an informed choice of what area you would like to go into at the end of the apprenticeship.
- Develop your qualifications, job experience, making you more employable.
- Earning while learning - £14k on start up rising to £23k + on completion
- Great support from the management team and lots of different activities you can take part in.
- Working for the well respected MoD
- Good pension
- Flexible working environment
- Career prospect are very good and you can progress very quickly within the MOD.



Lucy's experience as an apprentice

I joined the apprenticeship at age 18. I knew I wanted to do an apprenticeship as apposed to University and earn money during my training. I researched the different options on the apprenticeships.org website I came to the conclusion that I would like to do an engineering apprenticeship.

There were a few engineering apprenticeships that looked interesting, however the DE&S apprenticeship really stood out as one that would give me the best skills and development opportunities.

This apprenticeship and the MOD as a whole are always encouraging you to continually develop yourself. During the course of the apprenticeship you can go away for a week to take part in the Tom Nevard competition, go to Scotland for Outward Bound activates and can take part in the World Skills competition and Sir Henry Royce awards which help to develop confidence. As well as this you can take part in numerous other events and join Abbey Wood sports and social clubs. I went to Glasgow for the Tom Nevard Competition at the end of phase one, got to go to Northern Ireland with my project team, I am going to Scotland for outward bound, and I have recently found out that I have been accepted onto an Air Pilot Experience Course in Dundee. This is a two week course that aims to develop your understanding of aircraft and it includes 12 hours of flying instruction in a Grob Heron 115D.

I am very glad that I applied for this apprenticeship as I feel confident that I will have a successful future and hope to take advantage of the many opportunities and benefits of being a MOD employee. I would recommend this apprenticeship to anyone who is thinking of a career in engineering as the diversity of the equipment you can work with is massive and there will surely be something that you become very interested in. As an engineer you will be highly sought after as there is a severe shortage in the UK, and the skills you have mean that you have the ability to go and work on major projects around the world.

On completion of my apprenticeship I hope to become a Band D officer in an air project team and gain professional registration through IET and IMECHE.

Benefits for DE&S

DE&S has been running the scheme in its current format since 2004 and have a dedicated support team who have successfully trained upwards of 500 apprentices. Ex apprentices are now employed in all areas of our business of equipping the United Kingdom's armed forces. DE&S recognises the benefit and value apprenticeships bring to the individual and the business and see them as a key component in the strategy to ensure they have the highly skilled people we need to take us forward in the ever changing world of defence.

Want to know more?

Use the following link and download the PDF File.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-equipment-and-support-advanced-apprenticeships