



Sam – Maritime Combat System, Capability Manager

Sam completed A levels in mathematics, physics and politics at Downend School Bristol before started his engineering apprenticeship with Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) at Abbey Wood in September 2012 and completed in 2015

Why Sam chose as apprenticeship

Throughout secondary school Sam knew he wanted to follow a career in science or engineering and considered and was provisionally offered places at a number of universities before making the conscious decision to embark on an apprenticeship. Sam applied for both advanced and higher apprenticeships with a number of blue chip companies before deciding to join the DE&S Apprenticeship as the scheme best matched his aims and ambitions.

The opportunity to earn and learn was also a big incentive.

Sam's experience as an apprentice

The first year of the apprenticeship was excellent, as the course is a good balance of theoretical knowledge and practical application; it really confirmed my learning by allowing me to put it into action. A highlight was the project aspect of the course as I could use all the knowledge I had gained to design, build and test a robot.

After being asked by a college lecturer, I entered the World Skills competition for Electronics; I attended a regional heat and made it through to the national final at the NEC in Birmingham. This was a great way to show the skills I had learned, as well as meet with other apprentices, the competition itself was a brilliant experience, and has given me more confidence in pushing myself to work harder and achieve the best.

I have worked in DE&S Ships in a technical team that looks after the High Pressure Air Systems, it involves a lot of problem solving work, along with the opportunity to go on board ship and see the equipment in action for my first placement. I worked in the Weapon OC at DM Beith in my second placement, then went into the team I am currently working in for my 3 & 4 placement as I wanted to anchor in that area.

Sam completed his apprenticeship in 2015 and won the Bronze position of MOD Apprentice of the Year.

I am now working within DE&S Ships, Maritime Combat Systems as a Capability Manager for Electronic Warfare. The team is responsible for threat detection systems (radar support) and decoys for both the surface fleet and submarine flotilla

He will be starting a degree in September 2016 in order to further his studies in the hope to attain a Masters Degree and become a Chartered Engineer within The Institution of Engineering and Technology.



Ministry
of Defence



Benefits for DE&S

DE&S has been running its Apprenticeship Scheme in the current format since 2004, and have a dedicated support team who have successfully trained upwards of 500 Apprentices. Ex-Apprentices now are employed in all areas of our challenging business of equipping the United Kingdom's Armed Forces and providing a Force for Good in the world. DE&S recognises the benefit and value that Apprenticeships bring to the individual, the business and UK plc, and view them as a key component in the strategy to ensure the organization has the highly skilled people it needs to move forward in the ever changing world of defence where competitive advantage is everything.

Want to know more?

Use the following link and download the PDF File.

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