



## Parag Bhatt

### Technical Officer Complex Weapons Team

19 Year old Parag started his engineering apprenticeship with Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) at Abbey Wood Bristol in September 2010 direct from Downend Technology School Bristol.

3 years on he has completed his qualification and is now employed as a Technical Officer in the Future Local Area Air Defence System (FLAADS) for Land and Maritime.

#### Why Parag chose as apprenticeship

Parag considered a number of avenues for entering the world of engineering before going down the apprenticeship route but the main attractions for him were:

- Real experience of the world of engineering and project management
- Combining work experience with gaining an internationally recognised qualification and professional engineering status
- Earning while learning - (£14k on start up rising to £23k + on completion)
- No student loan debt

#### Parag's experience as an apprentice

I joined the apprenticeship at 16 (straight after school) and I couldn't have made a better decision. The apprenticeship is tough and can be demanding at times I found I was one of the youngest on the apprenticeship, but I believe this was a good thing because it helped me mature and to learn from other peoples experience.



While I had the chance to work in any area I decided I wanted to go into weapons and so all of my placements were within the Weapons, Ordnance, Munitions & Explosives (WOME) team working alongside experienced engineering professionals who made sure I got the right experience to be called a weapons engineer.

I qualified in August 2013 obtaining my Eng Tech status and Technician Membership of the Institute of Engineering and Technology (TMIET)

DE&S are now funding my part time degree in Mechanical Engineering.

#### 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](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-equipment-and-support-advanced-apprenticeships)