



Ministry
of Defence



Maria

Nuclear Undergraduate Higher Apprentice

Leaving Wolverhampton behind, I started and completed the first year of an Advanced Apprenticeship with DE&S in Engineering Project Management, based at HMNB Devonport, Plymouth, starting in November 2014. I then transferred over to the pilot scheme of the Nuclear Undergraduate Higher Apprenticeship in September 2015 and I am currently in my first placement in the dockyard in Infra Nuclear Support and Services Management (Infra NSSM). I work in a team alongside subject matter experts, who provide support and extra knowledge that cannot be found in a classroom, and in projects that really require the application of engineering skills and academic knowledge.



Having studied Design Technology, Maths and French at A-Levels, my plan was to enter the world of Engineering, however I was not sure what area of Engineering to study, so instead I went on to complete a degree in Law and French, which involved living in Strasbourg, France for a year. Knowing that I did not want to follow this with a legal career, I looked at getting back in to mechanical or electrical engineering and found the Civil Service Apprenticeships advertised on a poster in Gosport.

Searching through the apprenticeships available, it was brilliant to discover that DE&S apprenticeships are accommodating of those with a degree, unlike many other apprenticeship providers and I knew that this was the route for me to get back in to studying what I knew I would love, while being employed at the same time. I have not looked back since applying for an apprenticeship with DE&S.

Since joining the scheme, I have discovered that apprentices are from diverse educational and career backgrounds, bringing in a range of skills to the company and DE&S provide their employees with so many opportunities. During my first year I knew that I wanted to follow a route in to Nuclear Engineering, so applying for the Nuclear Undergraduate Higher Apprenticeship, which results in a Mechatronics (combination of mechanics and electronics) Foundation Degree, was a no-brainer.

Alongside the academics, I participated in the Tom Nevard Memorial Competition in the summer of 2015, working with a team I'd never met before to design and build a remote-controlled hovercraft. This was an amazing experience, meeting and working with apprentices from other MoD organisations and establishments, combining skills and ideas to create a piece of engineering from scratch, and this is just one example of the opportunities available through DE&S.

After completing my apprenticeship in 2018, I intend to turn my Foundation Degree in to a BEng and then go on to do an MEng, which will be sponsored by DE&S, with the ultimate aim of achieving Chartered Engineer status.

Want to know more?

Use the following link and download the PDF File.

www.gov.uk/government/collections/des-engineering-management-advanced-apprenticeship-scheme

