



Jenny

Apprentice Engineer

25 year old Jenny started her engineering apprenticeship with Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) at Abbey Wood Bristol in September 2013.

She is currently in her third placement working in the DROPS and MOWAG vehicles section in the Conventional Vehicle Solutions (CVS) Team in Operational Support Vehicles Programme (OSVP).

Why Jenny chose an apprenticeship

Jenny was looking for an opportunity to develop a career with technology focus. Jenny was looking for a job which would allow for further development and learning, hence an apprenticeship was ideal. She thought that the DE&S apprenticeship in engineering would allow for development and learning in subject which interested her, as well as provide an excellent basis for a career within engineering. The DE&S apprenticeship stood out from any other apprenticeship available in areas such as support for apprentices and variety.



Jenny's experience as an apprentice

At the age of 23 I had spent 3 years at university and a year working. I wanted a new career; one which would allow me to develop as a professional. I joined the apprenticeship at age 23 after it was suggested to me as a great way to learn and earn money simultaneously. Looking into the DE&S apprenticeship and the opportunities it offered made me determined that an engineering apprenticeship was what I wanted to do. After looking into other apprenticeships as well the DE&S one stood out as being the most varied and allowed for the most interesting opportunities.

The apprenticeship has allowed me to develop skills through training and work opportunities in a way I have very much enjoyed. The apprentice teams and placement teams have all been highly encouraging and offered advice when needed. The apprenticeship and the MOD as a whole offers many opportunities, such as training courses and events; there is always an opportunity to develop. The apprenticeship offers the opportunity to attend engineering competitions and events such as award ceremonies and volunteering opportunities. There is also the Outward Bound week at Dartmoor during which apprentices build on their Personal Learning and Thinking Skills, and undertake teambuilding.

I have volunteered to help out with events such as families day and Inspiring Women in Defence events; both great events for promoting the MOD among youths. I have also attended Outward bound in Dartmoor and undertaken a four day Community Project at Bovington Tank Museum. At Bovington Tank museum I and three other apprentices helped out in the workshop with tank maintenance and general support. I have also attended a number of safety courses and project management courses. I have also been able to travel to a number of sites to see a wide variety of equipment and may be given the opportunity to test drive a number of operational support vehicles as part of a visit to a testing vehicle grounds.



Ministry
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As I am soon starting my final placement I believe that during this apprenticeship I have developed as a person and as an engineer. I am confident that this apprenticeship has helped me find opportunities I would have otherwise missed, and opened up the world of engineering in defence to me. I have loved the many opportunities provided and have enjoyed meeting a variety of people working in defence, both within the MOD and contractors. I look forward to being a qualified engineer working in the MOD. I would recommend the apprenticeship to anyone looking for a career in engineering; as a first career or as a fresh start it is great. Engineering is a great field to work within and there is always a need for more engineers.

I look forward to my future engineering career within DE&S.

Want to know more?

Use the following link and download the PDF file:

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