



Andy

Apprentice Engineer

Andy began the Advanced Engineering Apprenticeship with Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) at Abbey Wood Bristol in September 2013 at 28 years old after making a career change from working as a civilian for the police.

Andy will complete his apprenticeship in 2016 and is looking to take up a role working within the submarines operating centre, and hopes to work within the area of nuclear propulsion and power. Andy also came second in the 2015 Tom Nevard phase 2 Hand skills competition where he had to build a rubber band gun with fire selection and magazine feeding.



Why Andy chose an apprenticeship

Andy chose this apprenticeship as he was no longer challenged in his previous job and career development was minimal. As a result he was looking for a job in engineering that could challenge him, appeal to his interests and offer him development through his career. However, he did not have engineering qualifications and the cost of university was prohibitive as he had already been to university to study business.

Andy's wife saw the apprenticeship advertised online and told him about it, he applied and never looked back. The deciding factors when choosing this apprenticeship for Andy were:

- Gaining engineering work experience and recognised qualifications
- Career progression, support and continued professional and academic development opportunities after the apprenticeship
- Earning whilst learning - £14k on start-up rising to £23K+ on completion

Andy's experience as an apprentice

I started the apprenticeship at 28 years old after working for 7 years, having already completed my A levels and a business degree. There were a variety of ages on the apprenticeship from 16 up to 28; however we all very quickly integrated into a close knit group.

We all had something to bring to the apprenticeship, whether it was my experience or others with academic prowess or practical engineering knowledge.

When we got to phase 2 we were put in work placements and we were all equally qualified to complete the roles we were given, although my experience put me in good stead to take on responsibility quickly. I originally wanted to work with helicopters, so was placed with the Puma Mk2 PT. I was given real projects and work to complete that would make its way onto the aircraft or support the aircraft.



Ministry
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After a placement in the air domain I wanted to try submarines. The apprenticeship gives the opportunity to work with so many pieces of equipment and I don't know another apprenticeship that could give me the chance to change specialty like this. I have enjoyed my time with the Next Generation Nuclear Propulsion Safety Team, working alongside experienced civilian staff and naval officers. I will be going to work in Barrow In Furness next with Assurance and Acceptance on the Astute class submarines.

On completion of the apprenticeship I want to do a part time degree and have a realistic plan for progression and development. My only enduring question is; why didn't I do this sooner?

Want to know more?

Use the following link and download the PDF file:

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