



Case Study: Matt Cross



Profile

Matt completed his Advanced Apprenticeship in Engineering Construction with PTF Engineering a couple of years ago. He still works for PTF but has now moved into the project planning office.

Questions:

Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

At school, I was strongly encouraged to go down the college and University route but, after my A levels, I was left wondering what to do next. I was offered a place at Portsmouth University to study engineering, but felt I was in danger of spending another 3 years listening to lectures and not developing the level of real skills or opportunities for employment I wanted. So I investigated apprenticeships on the internet and found the ECITB (Engineering Construction Industry Training Board) website, which then pointed me towards SETA. I was lucky to be offered a choice of two organisations and chose PTF Engineering.

Would you recommend apprenticeship to others? Why?

Yes! An apprenticeship really sets you up for life. I could have done three years at University and left without a job at the end. The apprenticeship route gave me both skills and the potential to earn well.

Describe a typical day for you now. What sort of responsibilities do you have and what projects re you involved in?

Since I completed my apprenticeship, the knowledge and experience I gained have led me to develop quickly within PTF. I am not working 'on my tools' any more but have moved on to working on project management and estimation, which is much more about drawings, costs and scheduling the jobs we do as a company. It was my apprenticeship which equipped me with the skills to manage these projects.

Why do you think your employer invests in recruiting and training apprentices?

PTF Engineering has an ageing workforce where over 50% will need to be replaced in the next decade because of retirements. Apprenticeships are the best way to get young blood coming through into the organisation in order to fill this gap. Getting the right tradesmen, trained in the way that is tailored for their company with the skills they need is really important. Hiring tradesmen can be extremely expensive, and it is more beneficial to develop them yourself with the right skills for a future in the organisation.