

FREDDY **MARINE SYSTEMS MAINTENANCE** **TECHNICIAN ELECTRICAL APPRENTICE**



How did you first become interested in engineering?

I first became interested in engineering because I've always been someone who thinks outside the box. This is possibly influenced by my dyslexia, as I feel it has shaped how I approach things. I discovered early on that I learn best by using my hands and working through problems practically. Whether it was building things, or taking them apart to understand how they worked, hands-on activities always captured my interest.

I have never been interested in sitting in an office all day. I like being outdoors, solving problems in real-time, and seeing the impact of my work. After school, I wanted to try different jobs to make sure engineering was what I wanted to do.

As a consequence I tried various jobs including CAD Design, Electrical Wiring on Boats, Deckhand on Superyachts, Plumbing, Car Mechanics and being a Maintenance Engineer on Boat Diesel Engines and Tenders. All of these just confirmed that I love to solve problems and work hands-on in dynamic environments. It also confirmed that engineering combines my skills, interests, as well as the kind of career I want - a mix of creativity, practicality, and the opportunity to constantly learn and grow.

What personal qualities do you think are important to do your job?

Teamwork, Creative Thinking, problem solving, attention to detail, adaptability, communication skills, resilience and perseverance, curiosity and time management and organisation.

What does an average day look like for you?

I generally drive to SETA, arriving early to allow enough time to walk from a parking spot. After signing in I go to the classroom specific to the rotation that I'm doing.

Most of the rotations start with theory in the morning before we head off out into the workshop for practical. For example during the Electrical Wiring rotation we do theory first thing and then plan our circuits that we will be building for the week, finishing with making them up in our own bay in the Electrical Workshop. We also have to complete job write ups for the practical work we have completed.

Some people work quicker than others, so would do additional extension work to learn more about that particular subject. This also shows our employer that we are eager to progress!

Throughout the weeks we complete an ongoing set of knowledge questions related to the work carried out during the whole rotation, as well as an online multi-choice assessment right at the very end before we move on to the next subject.



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Why did you choose to do an apprenticeship?

I had no interest in going to university, it didn't feel right for me. I feel that learning in the workplace for me would be more worthwhile, especially in such a hands-on field as engineering. While doing an apprenticeship, I get practical experience in addition to earning an income, rather than accumulating any debts.

Engineering is one of those essential industries that will always need skilled people to keep the world running. At the moment, there's a shortage of engineers, which means demand is high. This makes an apprenticeship even more appealing, as it sets you up for a stable and rewarding career.

What has been your personal highlight so far?

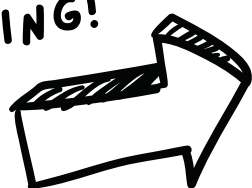
I would have to say getting my apprenticeship has been a personal highlight, closely followed by working as a Mechanical Maintenance Engineer on boats just before starting with The Met Office.

Both of these allow me to learn more about electrics and travel around the UK working.

I have recently had the opportunity to join the MSE Team on a trip to Harwich to service light vessels. It was a 'stripping down' job decommissioning one light vessel and the refurbishment of another. This opportunity allowed me to apply the theoretical knowledge I've been learning at SETA and put it into practical use.

This has helped me improve my hands-on skills, problem solving techniques, and understanding of the equipment in a real world environment. My mentors provided invaluable guidance throughout this project.

**ME ONSITE AS PART OF MY
ON-THE-JOB TRAINING!**



Would you recommend an apprenticeship?

I would highly recommend an apprenticeship to anyone who learns better practically. It's the perfect balance you get to earn and learn, whilst developing your skills in a practical setting.

You're not just studying theory, you get to put it into practice every day, which is far more engaging and prepares you for the actual challenges of a real job.

For anyone worried about taking on debt or unsure if university is the right fit, an apprenticeship is a fantastic alternative. You'll finish with experience, qualifications, and no student loans holding you back.

Plus, in fields like engineering, it's a direct route into a high-demand, well-paying career.

