

# Case Study: Ask an Apprentice



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## Cogent skills

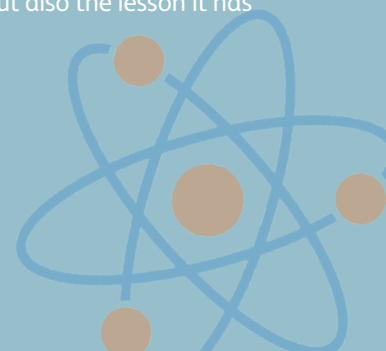
for science industries

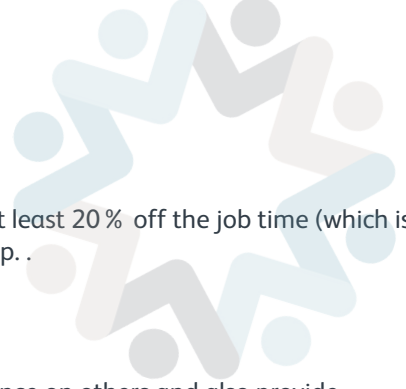
### Why did you choose this particular apprenticeship?

It was a relatively new degree and the prospect of being able to complete my studies and put what I learnt into practice into the workplace was a win-win for me. There is always a need for project managers and in such a fluctuating climate the demand is even higher so knowing my skills will be utilised and beneficial upon completion of my qualification is a great feeling.

### How have you found the whole experience, so far?

I have found it to be a great opportunity and a steep learning curve especially during a pandemic where the usual working dynamic shifted so quickly and significantly forcing myself and others to adapt whilst also finding out feet with the 'work, study, life' balance as a new apprentice. I have valued this experience for the support I receive but also the lesson it has taught me on adapting well.





## What has been the hardest part of your apprenticeship?

The hardest part has been balancing my university studies with work. However, having at least 20% off the job time (which is the same as one day a week) to attend lectures and complete coursework really does help.

## What has been the best part?

Working with fantastic professionals from both civil and defence who have a great influence on others and also provide excellent support. Learning on the job and managing expectations of others from early on means when I progress into a full time role, I won't have to learn these from scratch. I also believe apprentices are perfect at adjusting their performance based on the requirements on the job and this benefits the employer by creating an individual who is moulded to the job and is picking up the best traits from the best influences in the industry.

## How are you hoping an apprenticeship will support your career progression?

I hope it will allow me to branch out and network with others working for partnering companies and organisations as well as allowing me to demonstrate to potential future employers what I am capable of. If employers recognise that apprenticeships produce competent young people they will be more inclined to invest in and promote apprenticeships.

## What impact has your degree apprenticeship had in your organisation?

I like to think that I have played a role in the success of the business, and that those around me have also benefited from learning more about the apprenticeship programme. I also think the dynamic of having a younger mind can often bring new and innovative ideas.

## Would you recommend an apprenticeship?

Yes, if you aren't 100% set on university but you know you still want to build a good career, then apprenticeships are a no brainer and provide a young person with the necessary skills and knowledge. An apprenticeship also means you don't have to worry so much about debt as you can earn while you learn.

## Do you have any advice for future apprentices?

Speak to anyone you know who may have completed an apprenticeship and scope out your options before deciding. This is because they are so varied and each bring different benefits to you as the apprentice, so making sure you pick the one that best suits your requirements is essential.

“If you aren't 100% set on university but you know you still want to build a good career, then apprenticeships are a no brainer and provide a young person with the necessary skills and knowledge just as any other vocational route would except an apprenticeship means you don't have to worry about educational debt or money as you make an income as you work.”

