

# Apprentice Case Study

## Mechanical Design

“ A mechanical design apprenticeship is about the technical drawings of mechanical components and the specifications that go with it. ”



Hi I'm Stuart and I am a Mechanical Design apprentice from Seascale. When I applied to GEN II I was already working as a part time Chef in a local restaurant. I considered quite a few options, like staying on at school, becoming a fully trained Chef and applying to become an apprentice.

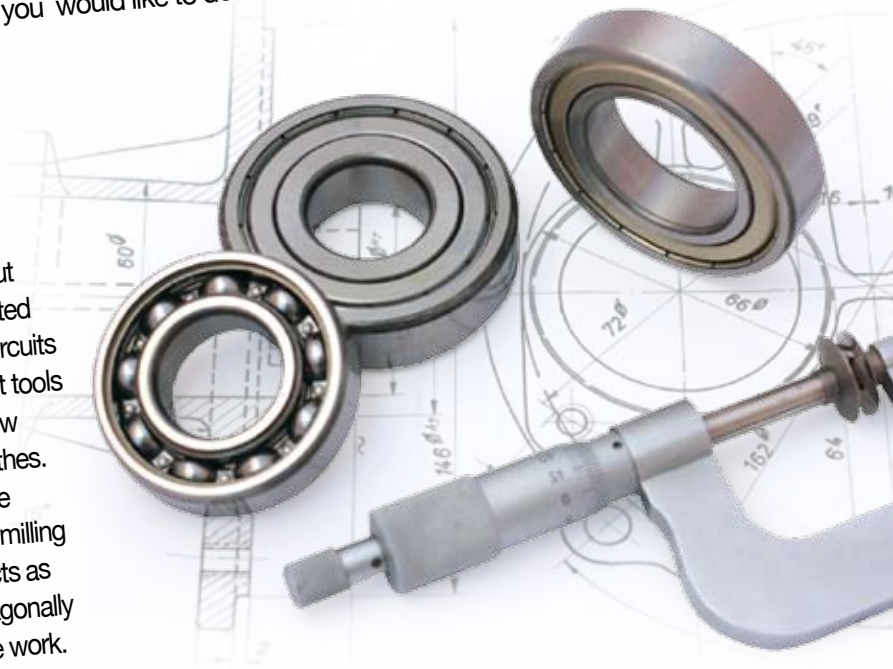
I originally applied to GEN II to become a mechanical fitter but was really pleased to be offered one of only a few places on the mechanical design programme. I was pleased about this, as for me mechanical work is far more interesting than electrical.

**What advice would you give someone who is thinking of applying?**

I would advise that if you are thinking of doing an apprenticeship make sure you read all of the information first before you make your decision about which apprenticeship you would like to do. Find out as much info as you can.

**What did you do when you first arrived?**

Like the other apprenticeship programmes we go through an induction course which has loads about health and safety and equality and diversity. I started by doing a short course on electrical wiring and circuits and then learning basic skills about using different tools and working from drawings. After that I learnt how to use the machines like milling machines and lathes. The easiest way for me to describe the difference between milling machines and lathes is that the milling machines work on straight or square type objects as they can only move horizontally, vertically or diagonally but the lathes are used for more cylindrical type work.



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Can you explain what a mechanical design apprenticeship is?



Well it's not about motor mechanics. A mechanical design apprenticeship is about the technical drawings of mechanical components and the specifications that go with it. It's different than a standard mechanical apprenticeship. We learn a lot about the mathematical side of things working out forces and loads and work on the Computer Aided Design (CAD) programmes. We also do pneumatics and hydraulics training. The design apprentices will eventually make the drawings for the mechanical fitters to then make the products. Although our training means that we understand all of the workshop side of things we will eventually be office based working in a design office.

What advice would you give someone thinking of applying?

Make sure you pick something that genuinely interests you as it's the start of your career.

So what do you plan to do when you finish your Mechanical Design apprenticeship?

I'm hoping that when I finish my apprenticeship that I will get a good career and go as far as I can. I want to be a chartered engineer in a few years when I do my degree and HNC.



To apply for a GEN II Apprenticeship visit the online recruitment portal at [www.gen2training.co.uk](http://www.gen2training.co.uk)