

Apprentice Case Study

Process

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I'm James, I'm 20 years old and live in Aspatria. I am in the middle of my process apprenticeship and work at Innovia Films in Wigton. I applied to GEN II in 2009 because my sister was already here and doing her apprenticeship with GEN II and was working at Innovia. I thought it would be a good way to try and get a job so thought I should go for it and see what it was like.

So can you explain the applicant process?

My sister told me about it as she had done it the year before. I applied in January and got a letter to ask me to go for an aptitude test. I wasn't too concerned about the aptitude test as I knew it would be maths, science and English and it wasn't too long since I had done my GCSE's. Thankfully I passed my test and interview and was sent a letter to say that I was accepted to start in the September.

What did you think when you first arrived?

My apprenticeship is run from the GEN II Carlisle centre. When I first started we spent a week in the Carlisle centre to do our induction. I thought the centre looked really modern. I got to meet the other learners and we did team building and things like health and safety training, safeguarding and health awareness. After my first couple of weeks we went to our employers. I am an apprentice at Innovia Films. I spend four days at Innovia and then one day working on key skills and modules for my apprenticeship.



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Can you explain what a process apprenticeship is?

I think the easiest way to explain it is to think about it as a process – it has a start, a middle and an end. Here at Innovia we make film like to sort of stuff you would get as packaging. To start with you have a pulp, add chemicals, the pulp reacts with the chemicals to make a skin, it's split and run into layers and then it's ready to roll and get coated. When it's finished it goes to the slitting department and then it's off to dispatch. I work at the end part of the process in the dispatch department. During a typical day I would take completed full pallets of cellulose film and pack into the finish area, we then wrap them for dispatch, wire them and mark them up before they are taken away.

In a few months I will go into the slitting department which will mean that I will get to set the machines up and size jobs for customers. I get on with everyone here. I'm the only apprentice in my area but there are 5 other apprentices who started with me who are on different parts of the plant.

What has been the worst part of your apprenticeship?

The worst bit would have to be my exams – they seemed hard but I actually did quite well. The waiting to hear if you've passed is the worst bit!

What has been your biggest achievement since starting your GEN II Apprenticeship?

Passing my qualifications and being named as process apprentice of the year.

Is there anything that has surprised you about your apprenticeship?

Yeah. What I thought it was going to be and what it was, was completely different. You learn about pumps, pistons, pipework and loads about chemicals and health and safety. It's quite hands on but you still do the academic stuff as well. I really enjoy it.



To apply for a GEN II Apprenticeship visit the online recruitment portal at www.gen2training.co.uk