

Apprentice Case Study

Electrical and Instrumentation

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I'm Dominic and I am a 19 year old Electrical and Instrumentation apprentice. I have always wanted to be an electrician and enjoyed the electronic courses I did at school. I have applied to GEN II twice. Unfortunately the first time I applied I didn't get in so I stayed on in sixth form for a year and then applied again. I was really pleased that the second time I did get accepted onto the electrical and instrumentation course.

What did you think when you first arrived?

The ENERGUS centre was good – it was all brand new. I was the only one from my year at school and although I recognised a few people I didn't have any friends that joined at the same time as me but you soon make friends.

Our first few weeks we did an induction and then did bench fitting which is where you learn to make shapes, measure out jobs, marking things out and work from drawings. We made bevel squares, a tool makers clamp and a drill drift. The bench fitting means that if you need a basic mechanical job done you can do it yourself rather than wasting time waiting for someone else to do it.

So what sort of training have you done during your electrical apprenticeship?

Our first electrical training was a basic wiring and testing course. We then did training in electronics, maintenance, instrumentation and learned about radial and ring-main circuits, like you'd find in a house. Once we did the basics you learn how to do trunking conduit for when you install new wiring. The bench fitting skills we learned in the first few weeks really helped as I already knew how to saw, file and measure out.



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I am still in the training centre at the moment. During a typical day our instructor would let us know which jobs we need to do to pass parts of the modules on our apprenticeship. Our instructor would then go through the theory, demonstrate how you do the job and then you get to do it yourself whilst they supervise. You create a work planner to 'spec' out the job and then afterwards you complete a work record. The jobs vary in the length of time they take and how difficult they are.



What do you do at college?

I go to the GEN II Higher Education Centre at Cleator Moor and I'm doing a National Certificate in Operations and maintenance where we learn the theory behind everything. We have subjects such as electrical principles where you learn about capacitors, generators and learn how to carry out calculations to work out correct voltages and currencies for certain jobs.

What is the best bit about doing an apprenticeship?

For me it's been meeting new people and learning new skills. You get a lot of confidence in your work – I'm doing stuff I didn't think I'd be able to.

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

Go for it and if you don't get in first time like I did then apply again. When you do get in make sure you put 110% in to all you do. I'm very pleased I've become an apprentice, it's the best choice I could have made.



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