

Engineering College Apprenticeships



We talk to Paul Caley, Engineering Skills Manager at the Engineering College and Olivia Weston, Memberships & Marketing Lead Apprentice, about what apprenticeships bring to their business and the apprenticeship experience.

The Employer Perspective: Paul Caley, Engineering Skills Manager

Q. How has your organisation benefitted from recruiting apprentices?

Paul: Our team has invested in apprentices since it first opened its doors more than 20 years ago. We believe that apprentices offer a unique perspective and can (and do) give something back. Our team recognises the impact of Level 3 and 4 Apprenticeships in the work that we do with employers and within our own business. We have upskilled 5 employees recently onto degree and Masters Level Apprenticeships.



Paul Caley

Q. What advice would you give to potential apprentices wanting to join your business?

Paul: We are always looking for talent; whether that's someone in industry looking to develop in an education setting or someone looking to kick start a career in an apprenticeship. We're about people – our team focuses not just on business need and roles available, but about people who believe in what we do and share the same values as us – to be inspiring, innovative, professional and respected.

Q. What advice would you give to other businesses who are thinking about recruiting apprentices?

Paul: Apprenticeships can transform your business. They can harness business values and practices where desired and can implement changes to business processes and culture where essential. Investing in your current workforce, or in a new apprentice, can pay off in the long run with creative decision making for the future.



The Apprentice Perspective:



Olivia Weston, Memberships & Marketing Lead Apprentice

Q. How did you find out about your apprenticeship?

“ My family have always been really supportive of apprenticeships. Both my parents worked in roles that focus on the training aspect of apprenticeships. My sister started her career with an apprenticeship, so for me it was an obvious route to finding a good career. I wanted to get experience working in business when I was in sixth form. Finding an apprenticeship in business and marketing allowed me to learn on the job. I gained confidence and skills that I don't think I would have without an apprenticeship. Since completing my level 3 apprenticeship, I have really benefited from the opportunities to develop. I am nearing the end of a degree apprenticeship in data analytics, which will take me into a completely different career. I think if you're committed to working and studying and you work for a good company that supports you, the opportunities are endless. ”



Olivia Weston

Q. What's being an Apprentice like?

“ My role is focused on employer engagement and marketing. We are a relatively small business support team, so day to day my role varies from managing the company website and social media, to producing new materials and events and project management. I love the flexibility and being able to set my own calendar. With a number of projects, including launching a membership service and working within the digital business development team, most of my work includes planning activities and rolling out materials to support these projects. No two days are the same and I love getting involved in a range of projects. The skills you can gain from just working with others from different backgrounds is probably the best thing about my job. ”

Q. What advice would you give to someone who is thinking about becoming an apprentice?

“ You can do an apprenticeship in virtually any subject now and the opportunities to progress are vast. I think apprenticeships are a brilliant option for anyone, whether you're academic or prefer to learn on the job. Apprenticeships can offer experience and practical skills from day 1. ”

