

Sam Hilton
Age 19
Start Date September 2005 – Pipe Fabricator



I started working for BAE Systems as an Apprentice Pipe Fabricator in September 2005. The Apprentice scheme takes between three and four years to complete, the first six months attending Furness College full time gaining a wide range of hands on experience and knowledge in my specific trade area and becoming aware of other trades around me. During this time I completed a Level 2 in PEO (Performing Engineering Operations) and had 12 weekly reviews with my Employers to ensure College were happy with our behaviour and progression and that we were on target for completion.

After the six month period at Furness College, I came into the company and began gaining my specific trade training, working alongside experienced tradesmen where excellent support was given throughout. I spent the majority of my second and third years of my Apprentice training in the PPF (Pipe Production Facility) working on the fabrication of Pipe work gaining experience on bending and prepping machines, forming pipe work and modules of various sizes and shapes using materials such as mild steel and cupro/nickel. I was also taught the technique of brazing in this area. I completed a placement on the Astute contract where the Installation of Pipe work takes place and also in the NBF (Nuclear Build Facility) which is where the stainless pipe work is fabricated and shaped for the reactor of the submarine. During this time I gained vast experience and completed a Level 3 NVQ in Marine Engineering.

During my Apprentice training I was given the opportunity to develop myself numerous options available from the company's training team, Ambassadors in School, Charity Challenge, Innovation Challenge being examples of these.

I was fortunate enough to be nominated for the Queens Silver Medal Award. This was due to good feedback from Managers and Team Leaders throughout my Apprentice training; I attended a week's course in Kielder in Northumberland and from this I learned a lot about myself and working with others.

I have completed in September 2008 as a Pipe Fabricator and after a successful placement have now been promoted in the Build Strategy Department working as an Operations Engineer.

I strongly believe if you want to progress within BAE Systems the company is 100% supportive of you trying to achieve your goal.