

Stephanie Park
Start Date September 2006 – Designer



I have currently just started in my third year of a three year Advanced Apprenticeship as a Draughtswoman with BAE Systems.

I am from Millom and attended Millom School. On completion of my GCSEs I didn't really know what career path I wanted to go down, I just knew I wanted to start earning a wage. Therefore I stayed at the School, attending the 6th Form to do my A-Levels.

After completing my A-Levels I started to look for a job as I knew University wasn't for me. From going to forums and talking to other people who worked at BAE Systems, I thought that this would be a brilliant way for me to earn money whilst gaining further qualifications, as I did want to increase my education I just didn't want to go to university to do it.

I looked at some of the apprenticeships that BAE had to offer. The most appealing to me was an Advanced Apprenticeship as a Draughtsperson, as I have always been interested in design. The Advanced Draughtsperson Apprenticeship is a three year course consisting of a year at Furness College, then a year of different three month placements before you settle into a final placement.

So far throughout the programme I have completed a two year NC Manufacturing course at Furness College which is where I attended full-time for the first year and part-time (one night school and one day release) there after.

During my second year I moved around the yard to gain experience in all areas. This was good as I got to understand, from different view points, how the business works and how sets of people doing different jobs are all contributing to the same thing (the build of the submarine). At first I found going to different placements quite intimidating although the experience has been very beneficial and has given me more confidence in talking to and dealing with people. I am currently working in my final placement in the design office and learning how to use the drawing packages which I really enjoy.

I think the apprenticeship program is excellent at BAE Systems I have improved my education as I am also currently studying for my HNC in Manufacturing whilst earning a good wage which is always increasing.

Once I have finished my time as an apprentice which will hopefully be this time next year on completion on my NVQ. I am looking forward to getting a few years of experience and then I would like to try and transfer to work in some of the other BAE Systems sites, some of which are world-wide, and would preferably like the opportunity to work in America or Australia.