

Abbey – Highways Design (Civil Engineering)

I am now in the last six months of my two year apprenticeship with City of York Council; I have been the Highways Design Apprentice studying Civil Engineering at Leeds College of Building, and it has flown by in whirlwind! There have been challenges and some very rewarding times; overall it has been a valuable experience.

Before starting my apprenticeship I was studying A-Levels at college in Darlington. I studied English Language, Geography, and Graphic Design. I found A-Levels tough but I was determined to stick them out and I knuckled down to achieve fairly good results. I didn't have a clue what I wanted to do after A-Levels, but knew I wasn't ready to head straight off to University. I had a part time job as a waitress but I knew I didn't want to take that on full time, because I would get used to a regular, fairly well paid income and never get round to progressing my qualifications. This is when I decided to look at apprenticeships. I was particularly intrigued by the Highways Design Apprentice job advertised and thought I had nothing to lose and may as well apply (it also kept my parents off my back asking what I was going to do once I finished my exams!).



Over the past 18 months, I have grown in confidence and as well as learning the technical skills of the job, I have learnt many life skills such as managing money and time keeping. Throughout my time at CYC I have been involved in various different aspects of projects, which has included helping with drawings for the design of schemes, assisting on Road Safety Audits, and administration for Road Safety Audits. I have also had the chance to carry out smaller schemes more independently, such as feasibility studies and speed management

schemes, which has given me a sense of responsibility. I would say that one of my most challenging things I have had to face whilst carrying out my apprenticeship is the fact that I commute everyday, which is around 50 miles each way, not only did this mean early mornings and long days but it has proved very draining on the bank account! However, it has been worth it to be able to progress in my career, without paying the extortionate University fees.

Once I finish my apprenticeship in August, I am hoping to stay on at CYC and even hopefully progress further in my qualifications, especially as there is a big push into getting more females into STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) careers. I have the privilege to work with such lovely people and thank everyone for welcoming me and helping me throughout my time at CYC so far, and look forward to seeing what the next steps are in my career.

To join our online jobs service visit
<https://jobs.york.gov.uk>

