



Parag Bhatt

Technical Officer Complex Weapons Team

19 Year old Parag started his engineering apprenticeship with Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) at Abbey Wood Bristol in September 2010 direct from Downend Technology School Bristol.

3 years on he has completed his qualification and is now employed as a Technical Officer in the Future Local Area Air Defence System (FLAADS) for Land and Maritime.

Why Parag chose as apprenticeship

Parag considered a number of avenues for entering the world of engineering before going down the apprenticeship route but the main attractions for him were:

- Real experience of the world of engineering and project management
- Combining work experience with gaining an internationally recognised qualification and professional engineering status
- Earning while learning - (£14k on start up rising to £23k + on completion)
- No student loan debt

Parag's experience as an apprentice

I joined the apprenticeship at 16 (straight after school) and I couldn't have made a better decision. The apprenticeship is tough and can be demanding at times I found I was one of the youngest on the apprenticeship, but I believe this was a good thing because it helped me mature and to learn from other peoples experience.



While I had the chance to work in any area I decided I wanted to go into weapons and so all of my placements were within the Weapons, Ordnance, Munitions & Explosives (WOME) team working alongside experienced engineering professionals who made sure I got the right experience to be called a weapons engineer.

I qualified in August 2013 obtaining my Eng Tech status and Technician Membership of the Institute of Engineering and Technology (TMIET)

DE&S are now funding my part time degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Benefits for DE&S

DE&S has been running the scheme in its current format since 2004 and have a dedicated support team who have successfully trained upwards of 500 apprentices. Ex apprentices are now employed in all areas of our business of equipping the United Kingdom's armed forces. DE&S recognises the benefit and value apprenticeships bring to the individual and the business and see them as a key component in the strategy to ensure they have the highly skilled people we need to take us forward in the ever changing world of defence.

Want to know more?

Use the following link and download the PDF File.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-equipment-and-support-advanced-apprenticeships