

T Level destination case study: Construction



NAME: *WILLIAM ROSE*

T Level:

Design, surveying & planning for construction

College attended:

Bridgwater & Taunton College

Destination:

Civil Engineering Degree
Apprenticeship with Bylor

Why did you choose to do a T Level qualification?

I always planned to do a course in engineering. I found the T Level course and I really liked the industry placement it offered - I wanted to do something practical.

What topics did you learn during your T Level?

The surveying part of the T Level has been very important, especially as I'm now using the surveying equipment we used on the T Level course in my apprenticeship. The design element of the course was also helpful - we did a lot of technical drawings, learned how to read them and used 3D modelling software like Revit, AutoCAD and Navisworks.

How was your course taught?

We had health and safety and project management taught through lectures, more traditional classroom learning. The practical sides were design and survey. We were using very new software and students got one-on-one teaching support to help them.

How was your experience of taking the T Level qualification?

All our lecturers had worked in the industry for ten plus years, which was helpful because they could pass on knowledge and tips. The industry placement was great too. That was the highlight of the course for me since it turned out so well and I got so much from it.

How did you obtain your industry placement?

I had heard that Bylor was a great engineering company – when a placement came up with them through the college, I was able to apply quickly and get an interview.

Where did you do your industry placement and what type of duties were involved?

My industry placement was with Bylor at their Hinkley Point C nuclear power station. I was working as a digital engineer, with different kinds of software. I would take all the data from spreadsheets and input that into software and make a 3D model.

What skills did you develop on your industry placement?

Being in an office environment I got lots of experience working with new software. I went in knowing the basics about software that they used but came out fluently being able to use three or four different packages.

Also, my communication improved a lot. I was messaging people, sending emails and calling people on the phone. It really helped build my confidence because originally, I didn't enjoy doing that kind of thing but it became a lot easier and I felt more comfortable.

What were the highlights from your industry placement?

I was a case study for Hinkley Point C as the first T Level student there on placement - they wrote about me in their newsletter. I was proud about that. At the end of my placement, I got near perfect feedback from my line manager. It's what made me realise that this was 100% the area that I wanted to work in for a career.

How did your T Level lead to your current role?

After my industry placement, I just loved the company. I felt I was ready for the world of work and the civil engineering degree apprenticeship was the most logical way into the organisation. The interview was a really positive experience, because I could talk about my experience with the company and the software they used, and that put me ahead.

How well do you think the T Level prepared you for your apprenticeship?

The T Level course gives you a mix of academic and practical skills and a taste of what the world of work is like. The course also allowed me to specialise, and it's just helped me settle into my apprenticeship so much easier.

What do your parents think about the T Level qualification now you've completed it?

They wanted me to do something that I would enjoy and could succeed in. They also thought the industry placement would be good for me too, so they were supportive and now I have my apprenticeship they're happy.

What advice would you give to students starting a T Level?

Just throw yourself into it and attend all your classes and the industry placements. There are so many opportunities with employers, and you learn so many great practical skills, you might discover your future job or career and you don't want to miss out on that chance.

Would you recommend doing a T Level to someone who wanted to go on to an apprenticeship?

100%. The opportunities that come out of doing the T Level in terms of going on to do an apprenticeship are unmatched. If you know what sort of area you want to work in, and there is a T Level in that, I would definitely recommend it.

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