

The scheme's structured with four placements, three internal to the department you're working for and one in which you can go and work anywhere you like – the external placement. I'm currently only one year into the scheme so I've done my first internal placement in software, and I'm now on my external placement with the commercial department working for Team CW.

It's been really good so far, my internal placement was incredibly interesting. I got to work on some really interesting software, doing coding which for me was an interesting start not having had much experience but all the help I needed was provided for me. I'm now working in a commercial area which is also incredibly interesting.

The work they do there is very varied and very different to what I was doing originally. But once again I've been given all the support, all the training I need, and I'm looking forward to getting back to do my second software placement.

Currently I am working on a mid-year learning event which is the second major job I've had on my external placement. This mid-year learning event will be a road-show style event where we'll take it round all three sites we have in the UK, and run all the different employees throughout the company through the event, and it's to show them and give them a greater awareness of the customer and how we interact with our customer.

There's many different levels of support. From the very first day I joined, I was met by my buddy who was another just off the graduate scheme engineer, who came to meet me on my first day, took me to lunch, and has been very helpful ever since. I have my technical coordinator, who helps me with all my placements, sorts out any training I might need, and is just another point of contact if I ever need anybody to go speak to.

I also have a mentor as well, who actually works down in Bristol, but who I speak to on the phone on a regular basis; he keeps me up to date, and any questions I feel I can't ask, or do not want to ask my technical coordinator, he provides that sympathetic ear to me. I also have my line manager, who is the person who deals with me on a day to day basis and provides me with urgent training, or help in immediate surroundings. And then also just anybody who I work with, they're all really helpful and really kind.

I'm working towards chartership with the Institute of Physics. I will be a chartered physicist rather than a chartered engineer, but I can then transfer that into a chartered engineership with an extra year's work. All the support for that's provided by the company and they've been very, very helpful and I'm enjoying that thoroughly.

What I have to do is keep tabs of what I do with the company, how I do it and then the accreditation, the scheme's accredited so, it all goes through there.

The training I've received has been great. We started off with an interaction week in the first week I joined. On interaction week we had, obviously an introduction to the company which gave us a little bit of background for those of us who'd never been here before. And then we had some interaction with a personal development coach who took us through what our personality was like, where our strengths would lie and where our weaknesses might lie.

We have training courses on a regular basis, we probably have four training courses throughout the whole scheme, where you go on different courses typically for a couple of days; going through influencing, persuading, negotiating, or just how you relate to different people in the business, and obviously they're all tailored specifically to the graduate scheme, to help you with your personal development.

The technical foundation course is a multinational course, it was one of the first times for me that we got to meet up with our French, Italian and German colleagues. For the project on the technical foundation course, you work with a multinational team. I was the team leader for our team. We had three French colleagues, one Italian, and one English colleague on my team, and they were all very interesting to work with. The differences in approach to the engineering was clear to see.

But I think it was more functions based than nationality based. I must say some of the benefits for me are, I enjoy working in the sector we do, I find it incredibly interesting. Some of the technologies we work with are unbelievable, some cutting edge things. And also, not just the technologies but the commercial side as well, I find incredibly interesting, and the new methods and the new thought processes that we are going

through as a company, it's a time of great change for us and just to be involved in that is really really interesting.