

I came to be on the scheme at MBDA by talking to a representative of the company. This person used to come in at technology lessons as I studied graphics at my school and he would talk about what opportunities were available at MBDA.

There are many advantages of being on this scheme, I enjoy the fact that I have an opportunity to learn at university and have a recognised degree as well as knowledge and learning in the workplace. I have the best of both worlds really, it's not that I have experience in one area or have a university degree; I have both. And the fact that we are sponsored through university I think is a really big plus.

The scheme works for us by MBDA sponsoring us through a university course at Hertfordshire University. We spend a day and a half a week there doing business studies degree and then we spend the rest of the time in the business learning and moving through placements throughout the site – or even different sites as well.

The placements I have done so far; I've been in Meteor Procurement which is an international project so I've been looking at Spanish suppliers, I've had a good opportunity to travel. I have then moved to work in the UK managing directors office in the Bristol site which was extremely interesting as it gave me a totally different perspective of work. I then moved to Pamms commercial which was extremely interesting as I experienced some French law which was different to things that I had already experienced. And now I've just moved into my HR placement.

The support I get whilst I'm on the programme; we have many different areas. I was allocated a buddy to start off with who was someone that had already gone through the scheme and it was very helpful because I could ask them questions, or if there was anything that I needed help with, they could help me. I have a mentor which I see regularly who is someone who has been in the business for a while and has a lot of experience. I also have a HR advisor, Gareth Humphreys who is also my line manager so I can go to him with any problems I have. And also because we have such a good network of business trainees here there's always someone to talk to about a problem.

I think this is a really great scheme because it gives you the best of both worlds. You get to go to university and get a degree and you also get the knowledge and the experience in the workplace. I think schemes like this aren't recognised and I think they should be because they are a really good thing to do.