

Daniel Thompson

Qualifications Engineer – Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies

Secondary School Attended
Macmillan Academy, Middlesbrough

TTE Qualification
Mechanical Advanced Apprenticeship.

Leaving School

I wasn't sure of which career path to take when I left school; it's a big decision. I had a passion for engineering and enjoyed fault finding, so I chose a mechanical study programme at TTE. I had a part-time job in a restaurant for financial reasons, but it also gave me valuable life skills such as good work ethic and being a team player.

With the help of TTE, I got an interview with Lotte Chemical UK Ltd and was offered a Mechanical Apprenticeship. I felt proud and knew my hard work and commitment at TTE had paid off. Being based on a chemical site and working for a multi-national company, gave me a better understanding of engineering equipment and methodology. I worked on filters, changing and overhauling rotary chipping equipment and specialist pumps/ gear boxes. I quickly understood the importance of preventative maintenance.

The NVQ Level 3 was part of the apprenticeship which I completed well ahead of schedule whilst also studying the HNC in Mechanical Engineering on day release - passed with Distinction. I won the prestigious "North East Process Industrial Cluster - Apprentice of the Year Award 2013" and the "Sir William Trust Educational Visit" to study basic robotics and automation in Tennessee, USA. I was so proud of these achievements and commended by both TTE and Lotte for my effort, determination and commitment.

Progression

I achieved full-time employment as a Mechanical Technician with Lotte. As my career progressed, I became the Maintenance Planner and then was promoted to Mechanical Technician Engineer. I gained more responsibilities including supervising contractors and apprentices, ensuring that tasks were completed to the correct standards. I now work as a Qualifications Engineer for Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies responsible for scheduling, planning and maintenance on manufacturing assets.



Mechanical
Advanced
Apprentice

Whitworth Scholarship Award

I had such a passion to become a Mechanical Engineer that I decided I would study at University. I was introduced to the Whitworth Scholarship Award (where successful applicants are granted full tuition fees to study a Bachelor's Degree and, upon completion, are invited into the prestigious Whitworth Society). Only eight scholarships are awarded each year to the UK's best apprentices. I applied and following rigorous interviews, I was awarded one of the eight scholarships; I was ecstatic!! I am studying the IMechE Accredited Bachelor's Degree in Engineering (part-time) with the Open University.

“ I strongly believe that choosing to study at TTE when I left school was the best decision I ever made; without this training I wouldn't be in the position I am today. Having completed the first two years at TTE without a sponsor I was successful in gaining an Apprenticeship with Lotte Chemicals. The dedication and support of staff at both organisations to inspire and develop talent was second to none. I would thoroughly recommend TTE's courses to anyone looking for a career in the mechanical industry. ”