

“I chose an apprenticeship to gain hands-on experience and learn new skills while applying them in real work situations.”

Apprentice Scaffold Design Engineer

Jamie Conroy



Interview: Apprentice Scaffold Design Engineer

Jamie Conroy chose an apprenticeship over traditional full-time study because he valued the opportunity to learn practical skills while earning a salary. He recognised that an apprenticeship often leads directly to full-time employment, providing a more seamless transition into the workforce compared to the potential challenges faced by graduates seeking jobs. Jamie's decision to blend education with real-world experience has been key to his professional growth and success.

Motivation and Decision-making

Jamie was drawn to the apprenticeship route because it allowed him to apply what he's learnt directly to real work situations. The ability to earn a wage while acquiring valuable skills was a significant factor in his decision. Jamie understood that apprenticeships often provide a more direct pathway to full-time employment, which he saw as a considerable advantage over the uncertain job market that graduates might face. This pragmatic approach to education and career development made the apprenticeship an ideal choice for him.

Balancing Work and Study

Balancing work and study can be challenging, but Jamie found support from both his employer and lecturers. When he informed them about his work schedule, they offered flexible plans that allowed him to manage both responsibilities effectively. His employer even provided extra time during work hours to help him progress with his studies. Additionally, Jamie's colleagues were supportive, encouraging him to seek help whenever needed, which made it easier for him to maintain a healthy balance between his job and academic responsibilities.

Support and Mentorship

Jamie was assigned a mentor who played a crucial role in his development, providing guidance, feedback, and support throughout his apprenticeship. Access to industry knowledge through libraries and specialised software further enriched his learning experience, helping him navigate and complete his projects successfully. This combination of mentorship and resources allowed Jamie to deepen his understanding of his field and apply his skills more effectively.

Attributes of a Good Apprentice

Jamie believes a successful apprentice should be eager to learn new skills and knowledge to improve continuously. Being open to listening, working well with others, and contributing ideas are also essential qualities. Dedication to learning, diligence, and hard work are critical for thriving in an apprenticeship, as these traits help apprentices make the most of the opportunities presented to them.

Advice for Aspiring Apprentices

Jamie advises those considering an apprenticeship to be prepared to invest the necessary time and effort. He also recommends thoroughly researching and choosing an apprenticeship that aligns with one's passions, as this will help maintain motivation throughout the programme. Selecting the right apprenticeship is crucial for long-term satisfaction and success.

Proudest Achievement

One of Jamie's proudest achievements is earning his degree in Civil Engineering during his apprenticeship. This accomplishment not only validated his hard work but also demonstrated his ability to balance rigorous academic demands with practical, on-the-job learning.

Future Goals

Looking ahead, Jamie plans to continue his education by applying for a master's degree in a relevant field. He is also considering pursuing Chartership, a professional milestone that would further enhance his qualifications and career prospects. Jamie is committed to ongoing development and is eager to explore new opportunities within his industry.

Conclusion

Jamie Conroy's apprenticeship journey illustrates the value of combining practical experience with academic achievement. By choosing an apprenticeship, Jamie has been able to gain essential skills, earn a degree, and position himself for future success. His story highlights the importance of dedication, the willingness to learn, and the support of mentors and colleagues in achieving one's professional goals.

Interested in becoming an Apprentice and embarking on a career in Scaffold Design & Engineering?
Please email: apprenticeships@enigma-is.com

