



Aleksandra Kuczynska - Project Support, Strategic Projects Team

Q. When did you join the business as an apprentice and what were the details of your placement?

A. I started on the apprenticeship scheme in June 2014, after being approached by senior members of TR who wanted to recruit someone with my language skills (I speak English, Russian and Polish). I spent three months working in a number of departments including administration, and marketing. Once I joined the strategic projects team, it became apparent that this was the perfect department for me and I have been there ever since!

Q. What did you learn from your time as an apprentice?

A. The great thing about the apprenticeship scheme was the access it gave me to parts of the business that I wouldn't have had otherwise. I learnt quickly and 'on the job', experiencing things first hands and witnessing how all the departments operate and work with each other.

Q. What was the most valuable experience you had as an apprentice?

A. Being able to deal/speak/meet with people from all over the world. For me, from my linguistic point of view, this was an amazing experience. Also, having access to and contact with the senior people within the business was a real privilege and has helped me considerably in my career and in my current role.

Q. What was the biggest challenge?

A. Learning on the job can be intense and hard work, but being challenged to pick things up quickly has been hugely rewarding and has really helped me to take skills through to my current role. The more I did, the more I gained in confidence and ability, and the senior support I've been given has been amazing.



Jade Wickham - Project Manager – Strategic Projects Team

Q. When did you join the business as an apprentice and what did you do during that time?

A. September 2011. I spent two years working across different departments before joining the strategic projects team four years ago, and I've recently been promoted to project manager in that team.

Q. What did you learn from your time as an apprentice?

A. Working in a variety of departments meant that I learnt not only what those teams do but how they support and fit with each other, resulting in a seamless process across the whole business. I was able to pick up a lot of skills and knowledge that I can and do apply now in my current role.

As well as gaining an understanding of how the whole business operates, my time as an apprentice also gave me the chance to get to know colleagues in different departments. This has become extremely helpful in my current role because I have relationships with people across the business that I may not have had without working with them. It also helps me understand just exactly what goes on behind the scenes and how everything joins up.

Q. What advice would you give to anyone considering an apprenticeship?

A. An apprenticeship allows you to experience what working in a certain type of business is like. It gives you more in-depth knowledge and hands on experience than reading about how businesses work in a text book, and allows you to start earning and working straight away. In my view, it's the best training opportunity you can have.

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