

Being an Apprentice - Case Study 3

I have recently become an apprentice in October 2011, after completing a year at Liverpool Community College studying for my A Levels. I never enjoyed college from the moment I started in 2010, the courses weren't for me and the coursework and exams were extremely stressful but, I never realised there were more opportunities and different career paths out there for me. Originally I thought apprenticeships were for more hands on work such as: Engineering, Electrician, Plumbing etc, until I came across the National Apprenticeships Service website whilst looking for a job vacancy at connexions. I uploaded my CV and applied for a number of Business Administration roles as working in an office has always appealed to me.

A couple of days later I was contacted by Liverpool Chamber Training and invited for an initial interview so they could learn more about me, steer me in the right direction and hopefully get me an apprenticeship in a placement that is best suited for me. I was very nervous on the day of the initial interview, but after arriving at the chamber I felt so comfortable and relaxed, as everybody is welcoming and friendly there. I had to complete some paper work which helped them to learn more about me, and then I was taken into a separate room from other candidates to be interviewed. I was very pleased with the way the initial interview went and I was over the moon I had such friendly, hard working people helping me out to find the right vacancy.

Within a day or two, the chamber had already contacted me with interview offers they had secured for me. They were both in a few days time and on the same day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The morning interview was for Robinson's, an insurance company. Unfortunately I was unsuccessful, but the chamber gave me feedback on my interview and motivated me for the second interview of the day, which happened to be in the chamber itself. I was really pleased with my second interview, as the interviewers were so friendly and made me feel very relaxed.

By the time I arrived home I had already had a phone call with the good news that I was successful and got the Business Administration role in Liverpool Chamber Training. I started work the very next working day and was welcomed with open arms by everybody at the chamber; I settled in immediately and really love working here. It all happened really fast and I changed my life around for the better really quickly, and I can't thank the chamber enough for helping me do this!

The fact that I am receiving a qualification along the way makes it all the more worth while and it is a bonus to be able to work in such a friendly environment with the team that actually deliver these qualifications.

There aren't many negatives to say about being an apprentice but the pay rate is a slight struggle to live on however, I do understand that we are on a training scheme and it is more than I would be receiving from college but it is a lot of time and hard work to complete and apprenticeship and I'm very grateful that Liverpool Chamber Training are giving me, and many more young people, the opportunity to do this. In the future, I would love to eventually progress my career in the chamber as it's such a great place to work in.