

Life as an apprentice

Meet Sam, a Level 6 Mechanical Engineer apprentice at Edwards



How did you find your apprenticeship?

I have always been interested in maths and how things work. Which led me down the route to being an Engineer. After completing my GCSE's, I went on to do a 2 year, level 3 Manufacturing and Engineering course at Bridgewater and Taunton College (BTC).

I did some research into apprenticeships and attended a careers evening at BTC, where Edwards had a stand promoting their apprenticeships. I spoke to the representative on their stand and found out they offered a Level 6 apprenticeship. I was really interested in pursuing this. I applied for the apprenticeship by searching up Edwards on the government Find an apprenticeship website. I started my 5-year apprenticeship with Edwards in 2018.

What does a typical day look like?

Every day is different in my job. I complete a variety of tasks with different priorities, including business-critical tasks. These are often the tasks I enjoy the most as they keep me thinking on my feet and solving new problems. Other days I will be introducing new products into the company.

How is your apprenticeship being delivered?

My training provider is the University of West England (UWE). I go to work at Edwards four days a week and attend UWE to study 1 day a week. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, I was completing my learning online. This included my regular meetings with the training coordinator at UWE. As the restrictions eased, everything returned to face to face.

What is your proudest achievement?

I have achieved a distinction grade (a 1st) in all my units so far! I hope to continue this so I can get a 1st or a 1:2 grade for my degree.

What do you hope your future looks like?

My goal is to work up the ranks at Edwards to hopefully a managerial position.

What do you do in your spare time?

When I am not working or studying, I like to play golf and tennis. I also enjoy motorsports which has made driving a real passion for me.

My advice to others

Edwards was the third apprenticeship I applied for in an engineering role. I would say to students to consider what they are interested in and apply for those roles. It is much better to have too many options that you need to narrow down, rather than not enough or those that do not interest you. This will mean you have the choice over your career, and you can pursue your passions.

