

## Engineering sector

### **Richard Bartimote**

**Has applied to study the Engineering Preparatory Year (Extended Degree Programme) at Sheffield Hallam University.**

Richard wants to have a career path and more opportunities in the future.

#### **What are you hoping to study?**

I would be really interested in progressing on to the Foundation Degree in Railway Engineering at Sheffield Hallam University.

#### **What were you doing before this?**

I had to leave school due to family circumstances midway through my A level course and worked at Prior Paper Mills as a Reeler Assistant.

#### **Why have you chosen to apply for this course?**

I wanted a career and more opportunities for myself and felt this could be better achieved by going into higher education.

#### **What made you decide to apply to a higher education course?**

I am 21 now and want to improve my prospects. I did not meet the UCAS Entry requirements for a Foundation Degree and this was an ideal Entry Route. I have always had a strong interest in Engineering. I play football for various teams and got talking about the possibility of returning to education with Omari Williams, who not only organised the football but also works at SHU with Higher Futures. A friend of mine had recently returned to education and had started a Foundation Degree at Sheffield College. So it certainly got me thinking that it was something that I could do!

#### **What are your concerns about starting a higher education course?**

It is a big step going back to education...so I am not sure how it will be! However, I know there is plenty of support available. I will be getting more advice from the Student Advice Centre about funding, they have already told me about additional bursaries that may be available to me. My present employer has told me there may be week-end work available to me when I start my course so I am not too worried about finance!

#### **What advice would you give to others considering higher education?**

Give it a go! You have got to be really determined in seeking out help and advice. I had some difficulty getting the help I needed until now. Don't give up!



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