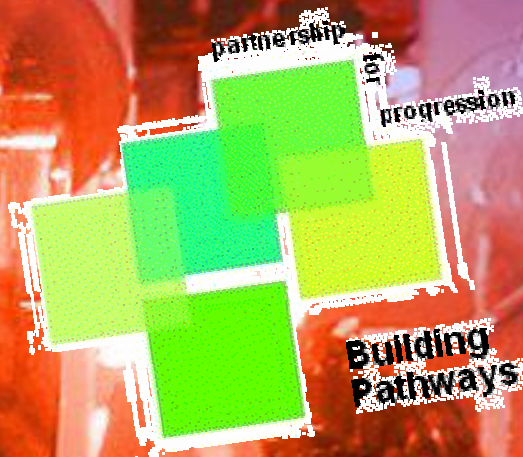


pathways profiles progression



Pathways to Higher Education courses & careers in Engineering

**Produced by Building Pathways and
OU Guidance Support Network Project**



Aimhigher...

Organisations involved in producing this booklet:

Building Pathways Project

Funded by Aimhigher, Building Pathways is a widening participation partnership project which includes all the Further Education Colleges and Higher Education Institutions in South Yorkshire plus some colleges located in neighbouring areas. Sheffield Hallam University is the lead institution for the Project.

The objectives of the project are to simplify and encourage progression, widen participation in HE through partnership planning and co-ordination, develop where possible the use of credit as a common currency across the partnership, enable learners to move easily within and between institutions with clearly mapped routes and pathways and maximize access and retention through information, guidance and support.

One of the current project themes is to facilitate a series of events with key partners to enhance available information and promote progression pathways through vocational and work based learning to higher education. This booklet is the second in a proposed series highlighting the key themes of pathways through vocational and WBL routes, profiles of individuals who have made the footprints on those pathways and illustrations of both potential and actual progression achieved.



Open University Higher Education Guidance Support Network Project

Bringing together HE institutions, FE colleges, Local Learning Partnerships, careers and Connexions services, the project seeks to support and enhance the provision of pre-entry HE information, advice and guidance across South Yorkshire. Funded by Aimhigher, its particular remit has been to target adult learners up to the age of 30 who come from backgrounds where an experience of HE has traditionally been lacking.

Based at the OU Regional Office in Leeds, the project has worked to ensure network partners have knowledge and awareness of HE in general, and local HE provision in particular (including part-time and distance-learning provision), and provide effective information, advice and guidance to clients. This has included training sessions on HE funding and the new bursaries scheme, as well as a series of seminars (running until July 2006) linking HE to specific vocational sectors, such as social care, engineering and early years, in conjunction with the Building Pathways team.



The Manufacturing CoVE

CoVE's (Centres of Vocational Excellence) are specialist areas of vocational provision characterised by close links between colleges, other providers, business partners, other employment interests and communities. They aim to produce appropriately qualified and skilled workers with excellent employment and career prospects which meet the needs of the economy. Details of the South Yorkshire Manufacturing CoVE are included in this brochure.



...about this brochure

This brochure is designed as an additional resource for those attending the OU / Building Pathways Progression to HE through Careers in Engineering Seminar at Sheffield Hallam University on 15th December 2005.

Highlighted are several individuals, from a variety of backgrounds, who have progressed through pathways into careers in engineering. Some have come through "traditional" A level routes, others through work based learning and vocational pathways. All have achieved valuable degree level qualifications that will provide them with skills for potentially rewarding careers in one or more areas of the engineering sector.

The engineering and technology sector has increasing demand for Higher Education graduates at Technician or Honours graduate level. Semta, the Sector Skills Council for science, engineering and manufacturing, has highlighted the high value employers place on these graduates to ensure the UK's hi-tech engineering industries can compete effectively in the global market. There is a demand for more "technicians" with level 4 skills and above. Philip Whiteman, Semta's chief executive believes the 1,000 technicians being trained nationally at this level is totally inadequate. *"It's a small number..... We need about 5,000 level 4 technicians. It's a challenge but we in the industry realise that if we don't rise to it we'll go out of business."* (Guardian 1st March 2005)

Similarly, Dr Stuart Bevins of SETPOINT South Yorkshire, in the Centre for Science Education noted, *"The UK has a long tradition of producing high quality scientists, engineers and mathematicians who have contributed greatly to the economic stability of the nation. However, over recent years the recruitment of people with the necessary skills and abilities in these areas has reduced significantly."*

Against this background, the OU/BP Seminar and this accompanying brochure aims to raise awareness of engineering, manufacturing and technology as a stimulating career option. The event will highlight some of the available pathways and opportunities available, such as those at CoVE partner Colleges, Building Pathways Partnership institutions, and also some of the many initiatives in existence, such as the South Yorkshire Engineering Scholarship.

It is hoped that the material will assist those who are offering guidance and advice to young people in their career choices. We hope it will assist in enhancing young people's understanding and perception of engineering and manufacturing and the exciting career potential of the sector.



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Website: www.sheffhallam.ac.uk/pathways



Manufacturing CoVE - moving forward



Jonathan Cooper (Cadbury Trebor Bassett & Steering Group Chair) and Tony Oakley (CoVE Manager)

There's a skills shortage in manufacturing and engineering in South Yorkshire. The Manufacturing CoVE is aiming to tackle the problem. Tony Oakley manager of the Centre of Vocational Excellence explains the issues:

Tackling the manufacturing and engineering skills shortage in the region is more than a job for Tony, it's a passion. After heading up Engineering at Rotherham College of Arts & Technology, Tony has decided to take up the challenge to help re-shape the image of the industry in a bid to make it more attractive to young people choosing careers. In his new role Tony aims to shift people's perceptions of the industry. "There is an acute skills shortage in manufacturing and engineering in South Yorkshire - caused in part by an ageing workforce. We are aiming to get the message across to young people that

engineering and manufacturing can provide good options for their future" explained Tony. "Engineering has seen many changes and some turbulent times but we have gone through that now and the heart of engineering is beginning to beat again". "Many people have a view of engineering that is totally out of date - they think if you're an engineer it will mean working in hot, dark, dangerous, satanic mills. Its not like that anymore - we are talking high tech diverse occupations with exciting career possibilities. We have many local firms that are world leaders and they are looking for people with the right skills and enthusiasm."

Formed last year, the CoVE programme provides a co-ordinated attack on the skills shortage that faces the engineering sector and is helping to increase the number of learners achieving vocational qualifications. The three year programme is funded by the Learning and Skills Council and is carried out by Rotherham College, Doncaster College, Barnsley College and the Strategic Training Partnership, with the Sheffield College as an associate partner. Together they work closely with manufacturing and engineering employers to establish needs and address ways of developing a workforce.

The CoVE fully supports the Engineering Scholarship, which provides would be engineers with the chance to gain nationally recognised qualifications, practical experience as well as a wage. Rotherham based ASD Lighting and Dinnington-based Materialise have both backed the scheme and will be offering young people the chance to gain valuable experience.

Tony commented "These two companies have come forward to provide students with experience of cutting edge technology in a real world environment. Participants on the Engineering Scholarship will be able to view the entire process of design through to development, manufacture and dispatch. The scheme is innovative, it an important move forward for our skills agenda and we believe the impact will be significant".



pathways

For further details of the CoVE phone 01709 389525 or log on to www.cove-engineering-ly57.co.uk Email: xyz@microsoft.com

Craig Clayton

pathways profiles progression



Civil Engineer

How did you become interested in engineering?

I always preferred the more mathematical and science based subjects at school, especially applied subjects. Engineering, particularly civil and structural engineering, was suggested by a careers advisor during my GCSE studies. I looked into engineering and became interested from then.

What attracted you to engineering as a career?

An engineering career was 'sold' to me as a well- paid and respected profession. There is also a skills shortage within the engineering profession which provides an increased possibility of graduate work and better job security. Engineering also provides many extra opportunities such as overseas work.

What subjects at school best supported your Engineering Course?

Maths and Physics. I think a knowledge of at least one of these subjects is required to succeed. My course (civil and structural engineering) contained a lot of maths to a moderately high level. A knowledge of mechanics was also advantageous.

How did you get onto your HE course ?

I always wanted to go to university while I was at school. Once I gained an interest in engineering I decided that I wanted to study the subject and follow a career within the profession. My course (MEng Degree in Civil and Structural Engineering at The University of Sheffield) in 2001 required 24 UCAS points (3 B's at A-level, not including General Studies) or equivalent. I didn't quite achieve this tally but by showing enthusiasm and commitment I was allowed to join.

Do you feel that taking an HE course has helped in your career progression?

Yes. . I have started work in a consulting engineers practice as a graduate engineer. Higher education has enabled me to get a profession and gain benefits such as a good salary. I've a good job in a subject in which I'm interested. My HE studies will allow me to progress my career further as a chartered engineer.

What is your current job?

I'm a Graduate Civil Engineer currently working in Highways for Mouchel Parkman. The company operates as a service provider to public and private sectors in Highways (including Traffic and Transportation), Rail, Waste, Water and Property

Wath C of E Primary

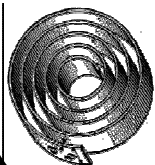
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I have joined a 4 year scheme to become chartered with the Institute of Civil Engineers

..I assist a chartered engineer in carrying out highway schemes design

..to join the company at this level you need a degree in a relevant subject



If you fancy it - go for it. It's brilliant



Development Metallurgist

How did you become interested in engineering?

I had an interest in science as a subject whilst at school. I suppose it helped that my dad was a metallurgist and I'd always been interested in what he did and I wanted to follow my interest in science and engineering as subjects. I wanted to work and study at college at the same time. The big advantage was my first job in engineering allowed me to earn a decent wage for a young person and study at college as well!

...I have enjoyed my career and I am still enthusiastic about my line of work.

What attracted you to engineering as a career?

The work appeared challenging, interesting and varied and Sheffield and the surrounding areas provided many opportunities for work.

What subjects at school best supported your engineering course?

Science - both chemistry and physics.

How did you get onto the HE course?

From leaving school I worked and studied on a day release basis. I did BTEQ National certificate (ONC) and BTEQ Higher National Certificate (HNC) in Materials Science at Rotherham College. I studied part time so my ONC and HNC (from RCAT) counted towards my entry requirements and I was able to start on the second year of a part time degree (missing out the foundation year). I didn't go the traditional A levels route.

...I thoroughly enjoyed my time at university. The subject was interesting

What was your HE course like ?

I was interested in the subject of Materials Engineering and I think that the degree was a positive thing. I certainly enjoyed learning and meeting people. The degree course was instrumental in helping me to get the current job position I currently hold.

Do you feel that taking an HE course has helped in your career progression?

It has opened up job opportunities to me. Employers expect people with an honours degree as the basic requirement for some of the better positions within engineering. It definitely helped me get my job.

...I regularly use what I learned in physical metallurgy, process metallurgy and corrosion

Are you using the skills acquired in your HE course in your job?

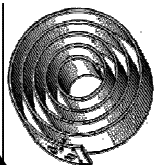
I use what I learned in physical metallurgy, process metallurgy and corrosion primarily but I draw on other areas too on a less frequent basis.

What is your current job?

Development Metallurgist with Outokumpu Stainless. I'm looking for a new opening but have every confidence I'll still be progressing within this industry.

Lound Primary, Chapeltown

Building Pathways
Sheffield Hallam University
City Campus S1 2LX



Show enthusiasm in all your studies !

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Control Engineer

How did you become interested in engineering?

I used to read about science, engineering and space in my spare time. My father was an engineer and I was always interested in what he was doing from a young age. Science and engineering helped me understand many of my questions about life, the universe etc!

Why did you choose an engineering HE course?

It was a logical progression from my interests. I wanted to learn more about the work I was doing. I felt an HE course was the only way I could fill the gaps in my knowledge.

What subjects at school best supported your engineering course ?

To get into engineering I needed Maths, Physics and Chemistry as these provide the key to solving many engineering problems. English helped with report writing and Design and Communication taught me drafting skills and how to present my ideas to others. Design Technology gave me an insight into the work required to manufacture items.

How did you get onto the HE course ?

I left school with 5 GCSE's (English, Maths, Science (Double Award), French) and I completed a BTEC ONC in Engineering at Doncaster College. I was employed at an engineering company and my learning was not moving forward with them. They were not prepared to sponsor me for university and I felt a sandwich course would give me some of the extra experience I wanted. So I chose to go the full time route and do the BEng in Mechanical and Computer aided Engineering at Sheffield Hallam.

Has your HE course helped you in your career progression?

Yes. I work as a control engineer for Hydrastore. I develop specifications, design, source and build electrical controls for hydraulic equipment. My work also involves liaising with customers and dealing with technical enquires about the products and systems we sell.

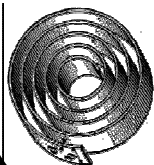
What is your current job?

Control Engineer, with Hydrastore who design, supply, install and commission hydraulic components and systems incorporating electrical controls.

...an HE course was the only way I could fill the gaps in my knowledge

HE was an optionI was unsure it was for me

I deal with customers and develop specifications for control of hydraulic systems



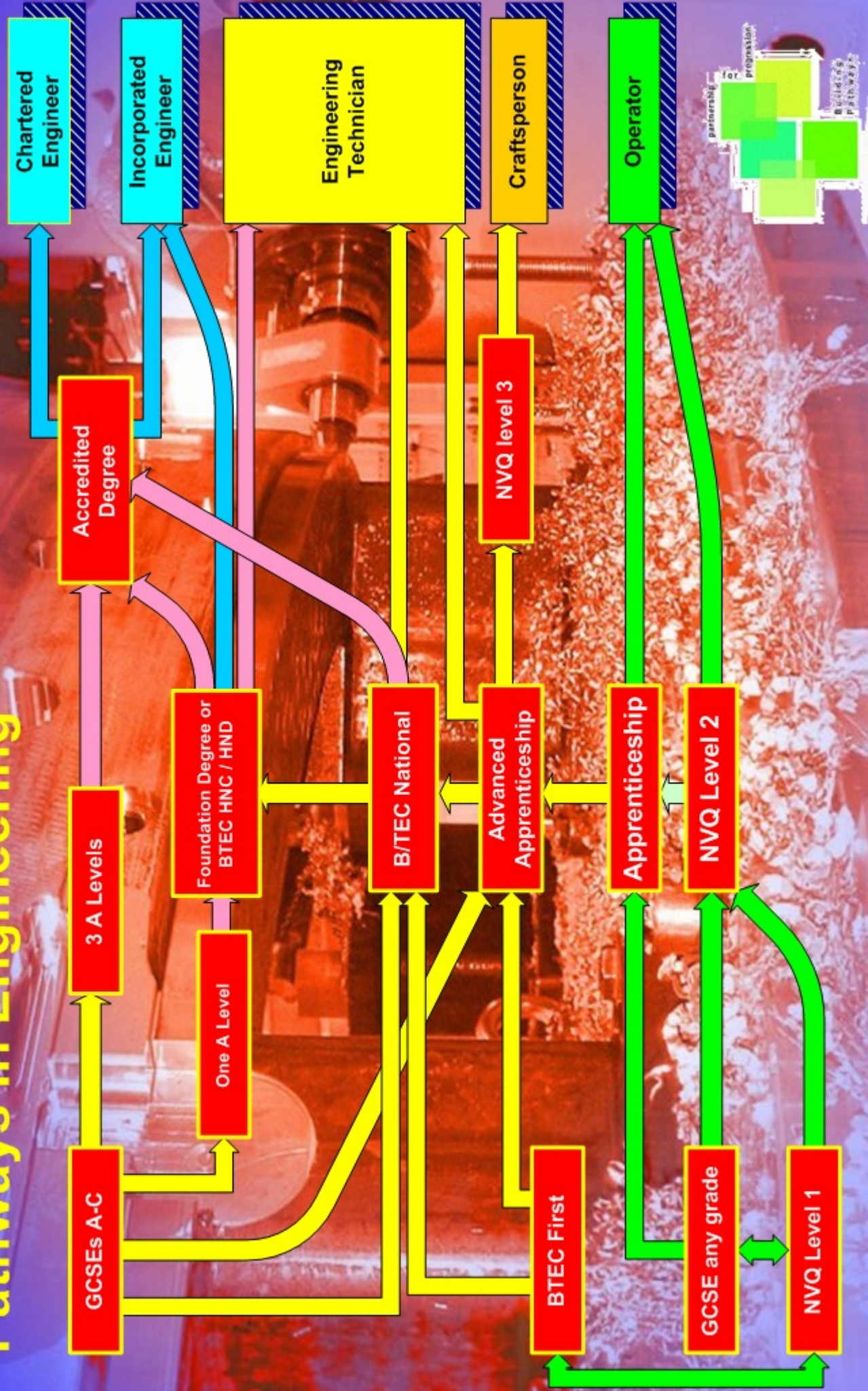
Westwoodside School
Doncaster

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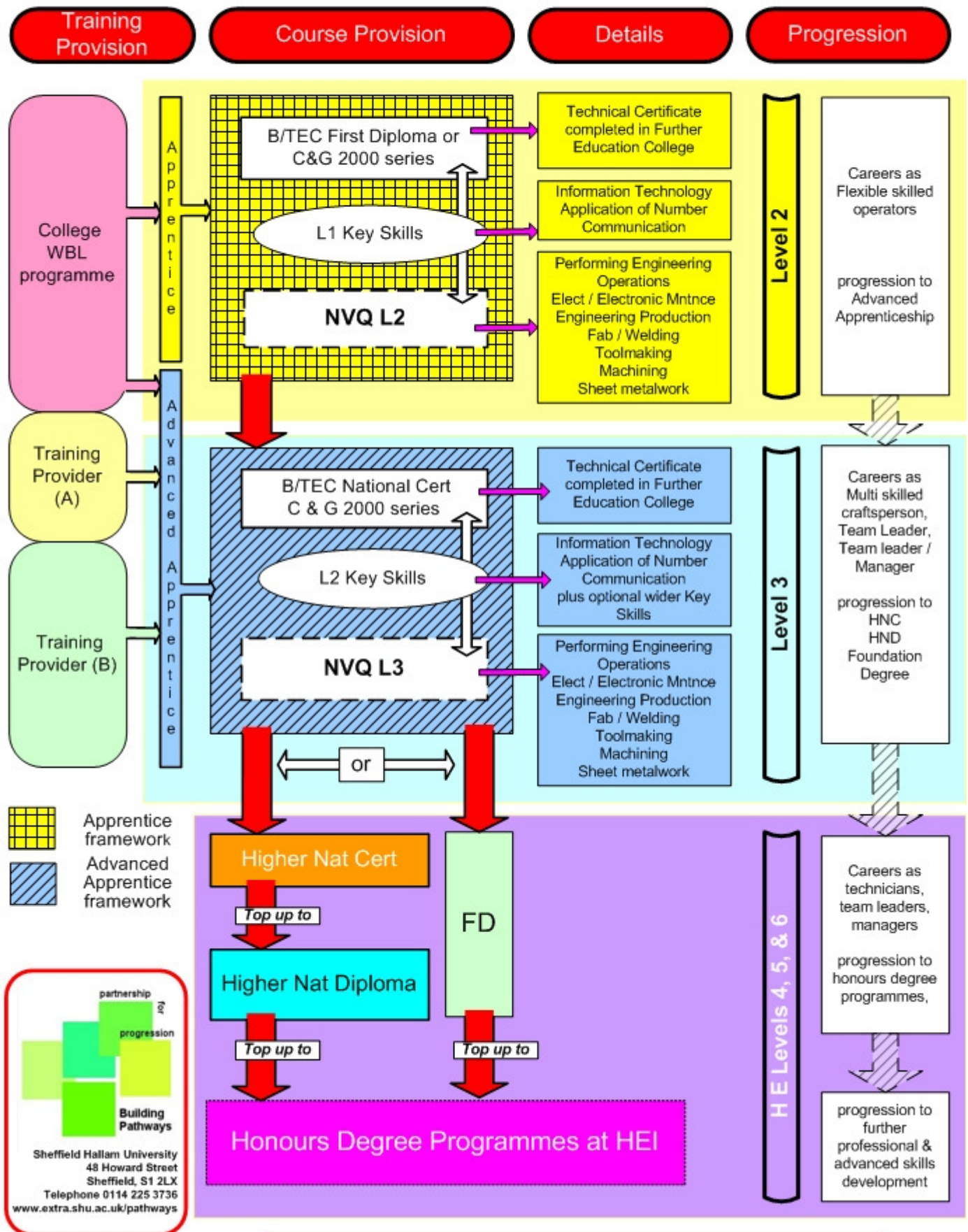
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Pathways in Engineering

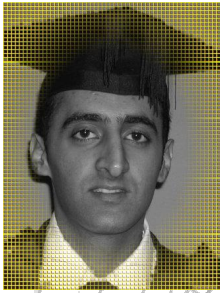


Example Progression Routes for Engineering Apprentices



Mohammad Nawaz Khan

pathways profiles progression



Sales Director

What attracted you to engineering as a career?

I suppose I was always very interested in how things work. I was fascinated from a young age but it wasn't until after I left school that I wanted to get into the design and making side of things. I was very keen to make or design things that would make life easier or better. After that opportunities came along and just fitted in with my situation, and so my studies followed engineering.

...You definitely need some Maths, but Science and Design and Technology are also very useful subjects as well

Why did you choose an engineering HE course?

I selected a course that interested me but I was also looking forward to future career prospects and engineering seemed to me to offer a good set of opportunities. I took the full-time route—but a kind of sandwich route through the programme. I did want to do a placement. However I couldn't find one that was appropriate to my interests, so I took a year out.

What other subjects studied at school best supported your engineering course?

You definitely need some Maths, but Science and Design and Technology are also very useful subjects as well.

Did you go through FE before going on to HE?

Before coming on the course I studied Engineering at levels 2 and 3 at both Castle and Loxley Centres of Sheffield College.

...I am also using a wide variety of skills I gained on the course

Are you using the skills acquired in your HE course in your job?

Things which I learnt whilst being at Hallam have been very important in helping me make a career choice. I am also using a wide variety of skills I gained on the course, and also those gained after leaving university. Being at university has brought many "life experience" benefits, above all, the technical knowledge I gained from the course.

What is your current job ?

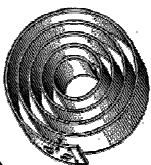
Sales Director for Wireless Amusement Ltd. who are a Games developer for mobile phones. I spend a lot of time making contacts with possible partners whom we may be working with negotiating prices, dealing with the business problems, and going to conferences dealing with sales related issues. I also visit a variety of conferences, but these are every so often.

...university has brought many "life experience" benefits

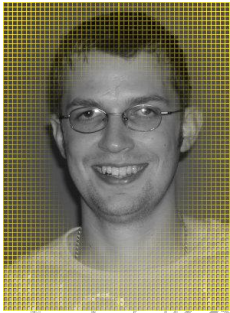
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I would recommend HE to everyone, Uni was good fun throughout.



Electronic Engineer

How did you become interested in engineering?

I was especially interested in design technology whilst at school. I enjoyed the lessons - we were making and designing things which started my interest in engineering. Also physics was interesting - it's where I started to learn about electricity!

What attracted you to engineering as a career?

I think I was looking for a career with good money - but at present this isn't the main motivator, I'm really enjoying the fact that the job changes from day to day in terms of what you are dealing with. It's office based but you're not tied to that - you are generally out working on the plant.

Why did you choose an engineering HE course?

I was interested in the subject, and I knew it would give me good training. I was also looking for a regularly challenging job - which qualifications in engineering would open doors to. I know as well there's plenty of opportunity to improve my future career, engineers will always be needed all over the world. I did a Sandwich course because it enabled me to have a year in industry that looked good on my CV, and also gave me an insight into what is required of an engineer.

How did you get on your course?

I did a B Eng in Electronic Engineering. This was a Full time sandwich course and I needed to get some decent grades from my sixth form subjects. I did A levels in Maths, Physics, Design Technology and General studies.

Do you feel that taking an HE course has helped in your career progression?

The job I started with Corus was a specific graduate program. Having the degree has enabled me to pass several levels that I would have had to pass if I had taken up an apprenticeship with the company. Some of the course content has not been touched upon yet but, the way that I have learned the subject has enabled me to pick up the work and adapt the skills I practised at University, that's the important bit.

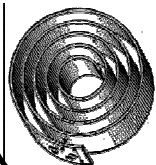
What is your current job?

I'm an Electronic Engineer at Corus Engineering Steels. We make steel for many industries - for example, aerospace, buildings and car engines. I'm involved with modifications, installation and commissioning of new plant, maintenance programs, and man management. I'm always busy!

...I was also looking for a regularly challenging job - which qualifications in engineering would open doors to

...I needed to get some decent grades from my sixth form subjects

...the way that I have had to learn the subject has enabled me to pick up the work and adapt the skills learnt.



Enjoy yourself—but work hard for good grades

Hoylandswaine JMI School

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Technical Sales Development Manager

How did you become interested in engineering?

I developed my interest in engineering from my work experience and career. However my interest has grown as I became involved in complex bricklaying and furnace building. After school I went to do a four-year apprenticeship in furnace and civil bricklaying and worked for *British Steel Corporation at Aldwarke (now Corus)* for 25 years and then for *Penn Refractories Ltd.*

Why did you decide to do an engineering degree later in your career?

I left school in 1976 with 8 CSEs and I didn't ever see higher education as an option: as a tradesman back then it wasn't ever really on the cards. Things have changed now though and I decided to enter higher education to further my career. For me studying full-time simply wasn't an option so I chose the part-time study route because of work and family commitments.

How did you get onto your HE course?

When I was 38 with encouragement from my boss at the time, I enrolled on an HNC in Material Science at Rotherham College of Arts and Technology. I completed this in 2000. I then took this further by enrolling for an HND and then a degree in Materials Engineering at Sheffield Hallam University. I'm glad to say I graduated in 2004.

As a more mature student did you have any special assistance?

No—but I was able to count credit transferred from my HNC towards my degree qualification. I was pleased to find that after many years of industrial experience -my technical expertise in the industry was recognised by the admissions tutors. They valued this experience as much as formal academic qualifications and therefore were happy for me to enter the BEng Materials Engineering Course at Sheffield Hallam.

What was your HE course like?

My experience of higher education was that although it was often tough going, 'it's the best thing I ever did. It's made me some good friends, and I've got a lot more respect from colleagues.' As I studied I gained a deeper understanding of the principles underlying all the work I had been engaged in and that lots of other things "started to click into place."

What is your current job?

Technical Sales Development Manager for Penne Refractories. We install and monitor furnace installations.

St Gerard's Rotherham

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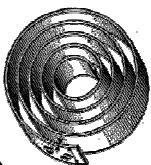
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...it's the best thing I ever did

...Studying full-time simply wasn't an option

...I gained a deeper understanding of the principles

...the degree has allowed me to deal with problems thoroughly and to be more systematic.



Engineering Administrator

How did you become interested in engineering?

I particularly enjoyed the sciences. My sister and other relatives had been involved in engineering. My sister particularly achieved success in engineering which is still a male-dominated environment. When I chose A-Levels and considered University, I began to look at engineering in a new light and take it seriously as an option.

What attracted you to engineering as a career?

There's a wide range of specialisms, be it civil, mechanical, or electrical in engineering and many other branches. Engineering makes use of technical competencies and combines them with other softer skills such as communication, and environmental and commercial awareness. There's a skills shortage in engineering, so it's a good opportunity to find work and be a valued employee. Also there are opportunities for travel and work across the UK or further afield.

What other subjects at school best supported your engineering course?

GCSE Electronics gave me an introduction to concepts such as basic digital electronics. As far as A-Levels are concerned, the Maths and Physics were essential for a course which involved understanding mathematical models, such as representations of the behaviour of electricity, which increased in complexity as the years went on!

Do you feel that taking an HE course has helped in your career progression?

I'm hoping it will do in the future- I know my education and personal development during those four years will work strongly in my favour. I'm currently working carrying out a variety of administrative duties for Carillion Rail relating to engineering and maintenance at Stockport Post Blockade Works.

What are the typical activities you undertake in your job role?

Logging calls from supervisors of engineering gangs, and keeping summaries and archives of the type of work being carried out, number of trackmen, location etc; working on labour forecasts, timesheets and predicted wage totals—the whole administrative side of rail engineering maintenance!!

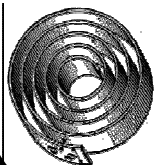
Which company do you work for?

Carillion Rail, one of the leading rail infrastructure companies in the UK. Carillion engineers are working closely with Network Rail to replace ageing infrastructure and upgrade signalling. I'm currently working carrying out a variety of administrative duties for Carillion Rail relating to engineering and maintenance.

I began to look at engineering in a new light and consider it seriously as an option

Engineering has a lot to offer me, and I feel I have a lot to offer an engineering company

...it's a good opportunity to find work and be a valued employee



Believe in yourself and take every opportunity

St Josephs Handsworth

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The South Yorkshire Engineering Scholarship



John Edwards Engineering Scholarship Manager

The Engineering Scholarship Project is an initiative to take the cream of engineering students in South Yorkshire and give them valuable work focused skills to help meet skills requirements in manufacturing and engineering in the region.

The Project came about after employers across the county identified that not enough high calibre engineering students were entering the work force. They asked the Employers Federation to devise a project to attract better candidates into the profession, which was supported by Yorkshire Forward and the LSC who agreed to fund a pilot for up to 56 full time engineering students to give them additional knowledge and skills.

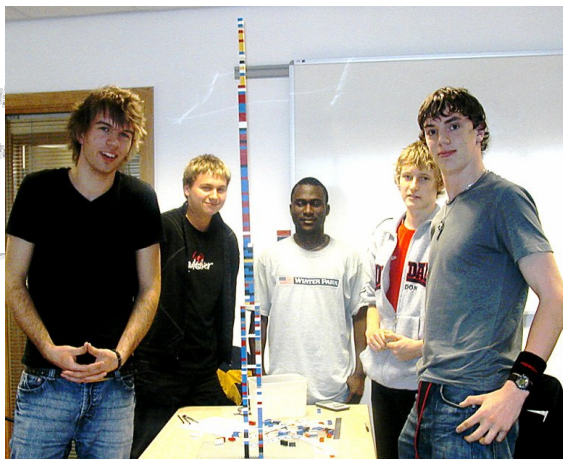
Students attending Sheffield, Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham colleges with 5 or more high grade GCSEs, who have secured a place on a full time engineering or manufacturing programme at National Diploma level, are entitled to apply for a place of the Engineering Scholarship Project. The students undergo a rigorous selection process, which includes two interviews and tests in dexterity and problem solving techniques.

Successful applicants to the programme will receive a **weekly allowance of £75 or £100** for the duration of a 1-year or 2-year programme, **with bonuses payable when specific milestones are achieved.**

Once selected on the programme, the students benefit from a wide range of additional training to prepare them for careers in the industry. The preparation includes company visits, residentials, work placements, design and problem solving projects with employers, wider key skills, visits to trade fairs, and training in advanced engineering and manufacturing techniques.

One aim of the project is to raise the profile and image of engineering and manufacturing across the region, with the intention of attracting the higher calibre students to enter the engineering profession and become the Technicians and professional engineers of the future.

Summing up, project manager John Edwards says "We have picked the best to take part in the Project. The programme has been carefully developed to give the students a choice of progression pathways to employment, the apprenticeship framework or to higher education." Employers will benefit also by recruiting from this pool of potential future engineers and technicians.



Engineering Scholarship students at the programme launch event, Meadowhall



South Yorkshire Engineering Scholarships

are you the bright spark we're looking for?

If you're looking at getting 4 or more GCSE's at A to C and think you could be up to the challenge of gaining top class qualifications and experience, training to become one of this region's top engineers of the future, have a read...

Across South Yorkshire all colleges and training providers are working in partnership to provide this once in a lifetime opportunity for would-be engineers to pocket some cash whilst getting themselves a nationally recognised qualification and quality practical experience of the latest Hi Tech industrial equipment that will put you head and shoulders above the competition.

This opportunity is open to all students who are or wish to study at one of the local colleges on a full time 2 year National Diploma (or equivalent) programme in engineering and looking to become professional engineers in Electrical/Electronic/Mechanical/Aerospace. Places on the Scholarship Programme will only be awarded on merit for the best and most determined students. First Year students will get £75 per week while second years get £100 per week.

So you can earn while you learn!



Leading learning and skills



Not only that but the course has been specially developed with leading employers, to fit you out with the right mix of qualification and experience, so you don't face all that hassle of getting qualifications but not having the necessary experience or the other way round, which can be a real pain when you're job hunting.

You'll get the chance to study for a qualification which is equivalent to A Levels and great for moving on to gaining a degree - plus get all the engineering skills you need through work at the college, work placements AND residential activities/industrial visits. Variety is the spice of life and all that...

Not only that but you're in the right place at the right time. South Yorkshire is rapidly becoming a hot bed for Hi-Tech Manufacturing, Advanced Engineering and Metals - not just the Steel stuff that's still around but also Aerospace, Motor Vehicle Parts (including hi tech parts for Formula 1 racing cars), Household Appliances, Alloy Processing and loads more. So, your job prospects are good - Take a look at some of the other Facts if you want to know more.

If this great career opportunity is for you and let's face it, you'd be silly not to be interested, call us now on the number below

Places on the programme are limited so you must act fast!!

led by created by



DONCASTER COLLEGE

For further details on Engineering Scholarships
please contact John Edwards, Project Manager on
01302 553757

are you the bright spark we're looking for?
Engineering Scholarships

The Building Pathways Partnership

Barnsley College
Chesterfield College
Dearne Valley College
Doncaster College
Grimsby College
Longley Park 6th Form College
Northern College
North Nottinghamshire College
Rotherham College of Arts and Technology
Sheffield Hallam University
The Sheffield College
The Open University
Open College Network
Thomas Rotherham College
University of Sheffield
Wakefield College
West Nottinghamshire College

The Building Pathways project is a partnership of Further and Higher Education providers in the South Yorkshire region working to widen access to Higher Education for local people. The project is funded through the Aimhigher strategy for South Yorkshire.

For more case studies log onto www.thegraduationproject.ac.uk. The Aimhigher Graduation Project collects case studies from local graduates and sends these back into schools and colleges. The project creates an "If I Can, you can" attitude and inspires others to stick with education by illustrating the benefits. For more information see our website.



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Building Pathways
Sheffield Hallam University
City Campus S1 2LX

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