



James Hunter
Doncaster College

Construction Apprentice Profile

A little about myself

I went to Adwick Comprehensive. I actually enjoyed school and in some ways it was all too short. I particularly enjoyed playing sport - especially football. I left with some GCSE's and then went to do a 4 year apprenticeship with T. Greening the decorators. We specialised in restoration work - and we were involved with some really interesting projects - such as English Heritage work at Kensington Palace and Bolsover Castle.

What encouraged you to go for a career in construction ?

I was interested in getting a good practical career - one with prospects. I'm just completing my National Diploma 1st year in Building Studies, and moving onto the 2nd year. I'm determined to move on upwards to HND after that - perhaps concentrating on Health and Safety or Quantity Surveying work.

Where do you aim to be career wise - in 5 years time ?

I'm currently a trainee contracts manager at Alfred Bagnalls East Midlands- and I want to move up to a managerial position soon - but still retain the emphasis on learning

Where do you aim to be career wise - in 10 years time ?

I would hope to have established myself in construction management by then and maybe be looking to move up to a more senior position. I'm interested in health and safety or the contracting side - I'm already well into risk assessment and supervising quite a few staff.

Is there a clear progression route for you to this position ?

Yes there's good opportunities for progression within the firm and the construction industry generally

Is the progression route for you through Higher Education ?

Yes definitely - I want to go on to the highest level I can achieve

What have you enjoyed most about the Modern Apprenticeship ?

The mixture of on-site work, learning the technical side at College





and practical job experience build up your confidence to tackle the job

Have you been encouraged by your employer / training provider ?

The Boss of my apprenticeship firm gave me a great deal of support. My current immediate manager gives me time to work on assignments and college work - and the senior management here at the firm are very supportive of me and training in general

Have they given you information about pathways to progression ?

Yes - the group training technical manager has been good.

Who has given you most support during your MA ?

The employers have been great - Tom Greening the MD of my apprenticeship firm has been excellent, but Bagnalls are very good to and give me full support and encouragement. They've facilitated my learning and college work, and taken a big interest in what I was doing, and also how I was progressing.

Which areas of the MA programme did you enjoy most ?

The work at College - especially having good relationships with the staff in Building at Doncaster College. They give you support, treat you with respect and they deserve it back.

Which areas of the MA programme did you enjoy least ?

Chasing up my CSCS card - it was nearly impossible to get hold of

What could have been done to make the MA programme work better for you?

Increase the time allocated to College work in the third year - the time is very tight to do what you have to do and increases the pressure on you - it's all unnecessary.

Would you recommend the programme to others ?

Yes without reservations

What would you tell them about MA's ?

...You're learning and working at the same time. earning the money and getting the background experience to move on upwards.

