Lynsay Kelly

Control Systems Engineer in decommissioning at Sellafield Ltd

Degree: Didn't have one to start with! My way into the nuclear industry was through an apprenticeship, and later I got a distinction in my Foundation degree.

The fear of getting into debt and being unable to find a job put me off going to University, so I looked into what apprenticeships had to offer, and really liked the look of engineering. Interviews with a training provider suggested a control systems apprenticeship might suit me – and it does!

I started training in 2009, and loved it from the start. I've learned so much, from bench-fitting to electrical. In the first year we spent six weeks learning about each different discipline to get a good appreciation of what the other apprentices were doing.

There's a real difference between being a trainee and a qualified professional. People now trust me to take on a lot more responsibility, and know I can just get on with the job at hand, maintaining and improving a lot of the systems that support some of the nuclear facilities at the site. I like the variety of my job; I very rarely come to work and do the same thing every day. There are lots of challenges, and I enjoy working towards overcoming these. I enjoy coming to work because morale is high, and I work with some great people.

I intend to complete the necessary qualifications and experience to become an incorporated engineer. I also aim to reach fully competent status in my current role, and progress my career within control systems, gaining more responsibilities and experience.

My parents were apprentices when they started working, and I've followed in their footsteps. I approached training provider Gen 2 because I'd heard good things about them, and I would highly recommend the same path to others.

A career path like mine can open up so many opportunities, particularly in a company like Sellafield Ltd, which is great to work for. I have friends coming out of university struggling to find the right jobs, whereas I have just been supported by Sellafield Ltd through my foundation degree. It's great to see my hard work paying off, and I feel I have opened even more doors and put myself at an advantage early on in my career.

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