

# ENGINEERING APPRENTICESHIPS WITH THE MET POLICE

## MEET ABIGAIL, A LEVEL 3 ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN APPRENTICE

### Why did you choose this career and why as an apprenticeship?

I chose this career path because I wanted a practical career which involved hands-on work rather than a desk job. I took an interest in engineering from a young age and decided that after I had finished my A levels, I wanted to undertake an apprenticeship rather than go to university. An apprenticeship was more appealing to me than university because I liked the idea that I could get on-the-job experience whilst completing a qualification and getting paid while I learnt a trade.

### What does your role involve?

My job role involves helping in the design and manufacture of specialist and bespoke overt cameras which are then deployed in London and the surrounding boroughs. We do this to aid public safety and provide support for both overt and covert operations. A typical day could involve making up cables and soldering, as well as creating housing units for the cameras using 3D printing techniques. I have also worked on modular designs to be used in covert operations.

### How has your employer facilitated your apprenticeship?

During my apprenticeship I have been lucky enough to rotate across the different sites and departments which make up MO3 (Met Operations). The different sites and workshops have exposed me to all different aspects of engineering, which has helped me to develop my skills and improve my weaknesses with the guidance of my line managers. Within each department there are weekly meetings to discuss the work that has been completed and the next projects that will be started. I am given projects/task to complete in each team and as my apprenticeship progresses the tasks become more challenging.



### How did you find your apprenticeship?

I had a brief introduction to apprenticeships at a school careers fair and it gave me enough information to make a decision that I wanted to complete an apprenticeship in engineering rather than attend university.

I signed up to the GOV.UK Find an apprenticeship website whilst in Year 13 and set up notifications for all engineering apprenticeships as I didn't really have an idea what speciality I wanted to study. I was drawn to my apprenticeship because it seemed to give me experience in both mechanical and electrical engineering. For someone like me that hadn't picked a specialism yet, this gave me the opportunity to learn about the different aspects of engineering.



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### How is your apprenticeship delivered?

For the first year of my apprenticeship I attended college in Milton Keynes three days a week (Monday – Wednesday). Whilst I was waiting for my vetting to be completed (so I could start a work placement at Newlands Park), I had Thursdays and Fridays dedicated to study and completing any tasks that my workplace or college had set. This usually took the form of a team project/presentation (there were four apprentices from my company) which would be shown to the apprentice board.

During the second year I attended college once a week, working the other four days at Newlands Park (or one of two other sites).

A work-study balance was created by dedicating an extra day to college work if more time was needed to complete assignments. For example, whilst completing our project module at college, my workplace booked my team (comprised of the four Met Police apprentices) a room where we could work on our project on a Friday and complete any outstanding college work.

The apprenticeship programme has reviews every three months. During COVID, learning was moved online and reviews were conducted via Microsoft teams calls. However, after the pandemic, face-to-face learning resumed and our workplace trainer would travel to the workplace to conduct the reviews.

### Who or what inspires you and what are your goals?

The inspiration for my chosen career is my Grandpa. He was a communications engineer in the Met Police for over 30 years. He helped me look through all the different types of engineering apprenticeships and pick the one that was best suited for me.

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### What would your advice be to students and parents / carers about apprenticeships?

Apprenticeships are a great way to learn skills on the job and apply what you learn at college/university in real-life scenarios. In my opinion, an apprenticeship is a great option because you gain the same knowledge and understanding as you would with a full-time degree, but also have experience in the workplace and a better understanding of how companies work. When it comes to applying for jobs afterwards, you will not only have the knowledge that you need, but also the practical experience. Plus you earn a wage rather than getting into debt!



Find out more about Engineering apprenticeships with the Met Police here:

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/met/>

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