

NEAVE ANDERSON

APPRENTICE C&I DRAUGHTSPERSON, DOUNREAY



I feel lucky working at Dounreay, Scotland's largest nuclear clean-up and demolition company.

Throughout Secondary school, I was always interested in engineering and the design process, so when the apprenticeship vacancies came out I thought it would be a great opportunity. A typical day for me is working on AutoCAD drawings, gathering information and discussing ideas with my team. I'm mainly responsible for producing drawings and ensuring they are done to the correct standard.

In my final year of school, I applied for both university and an apprenticeship, yet I felt an apprenticeship was more suited to me as it allows you to study and work at the same time. Dounreay advertised the apprenticeships available online so it was easy to learn about what they were offering.

The interview process consisted of an aptitude test that determined if you would get a face-to-face interview. For the design apprenticeship, I was also required to attend a second interview with the design team. As this was my first time applying for an apprenticeship the whole process was quite nerve-wracking.

All of my training is provided on site by DSRL, who are extremely supportive, they also allow for us to attend college on day release during the week. Due to COVID 19, the majority of college work has been done online, but the tutors do get us to attend campus regularly to see how we are getting on.

I would like to achieve my master's degree in Electrical and Electronic Systems as this will allow me to work towards becoming a chartered engineer. My proudest achievement would have to be continuing my college work during a pandemic, as this allowed me to complete my first year of a HND which meant I could then progress onto the second year of the HND programme.

Apprenticeships really are an amazing opportunity, they allow you to meet so many different types of people, learn a variety of skills and gain qualifications. Within my workplace, the majority of staff actually started out as an apprentice. So, they all know how it feels to start something completely new and are always willing to help and provide advice.

