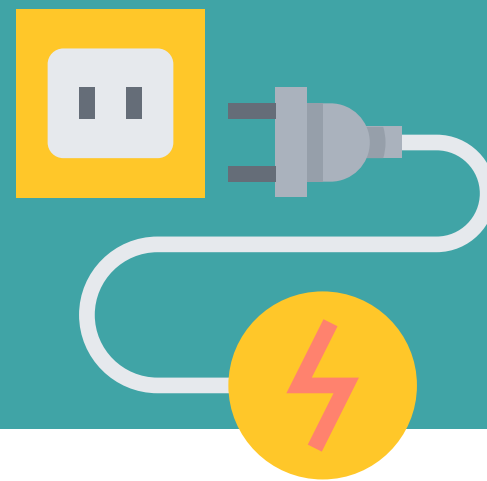


KATHRYN TANNER

ELECTRICAL DESIGN APPRENTICE, CAVENDISH NUCLEAR



I started my apprenticeship with Cavendish Nuclear, the UK's leading supplier to the nuclear industry, in 2019 after a career change. I had never considered a career in the nuclear industry, but this apprenticeship tied in two of my interests, design and electrics.

I had a gap year after school and went to university, but I wasn't able to find a job in design technology when I graduated. After working in operations and admin roles for 10 years, I retrained as a domestic electrician and was looking for trainee electrician positions when the role of an apprentice appeared in my search. My interview consisted of a group exercise and then a 1-to-1 interview with my line manager and my college assessor, and even though we didn't do very well in the group exercise, it was clear that this was a way of seeing how we worked as a team.

For my first year I was in college full time and last year I was in just 1 day a week, with a mix of in person and online learning due to the lockdowns. I'm now working on my NVQ, gaining experience from the business and I'm given time during my working week to complete this work.

My ultimate goal is to become an electrical engineer and be able to provide solutions to the nuclear industry to help meet the UK's Net Zero goal in 2050. Cavendish has really supported me in becoming active, I was appointed Vice-Chair of the Women's Network earlier this year which helps to bring equality to the business.

As part of this role, I've also become a facilitator of Google's #IamRemarkable workshops and have delivered 4 of these workshops to encourage those from marginalised backgrounds to feel more comfortable to speak about their achievements (myself included!) and this has led to many more opportunities within the business.

I wish I had been better informed about what a great opportunity apprenticeships are when I was at school - it was never mentioned as an option and there was a pressure for everyone to go to university when I was in Year 12 & 13. Don't panic if you don't know what you want to do with the rest of your life, try something and if you find you don't like it there's always the option to try something else at a later date.

