

T Levels

Meet former Digital Production, Design and Development T Level student, Joe



Which T Level did you do and what did it involve?

I studied the Digital Production Design and Development T Level at Havant and South Downs College, Waterlooville, Hampshire. This was essentially a software development course, so I learnt a lot about how to code in Python, the laws and ethics of using computers and the business environment.

What made you choose to do a T Level?

I chose a T Level over other courses because of the industrial placement element of the course. This gave me an opportunity to get work ready and understand how to work in an IT setting in the future. I also liked how it wasn't all essay based, unlike A-levels. I personally do not like essay writing (some people do and that's fair, I don't!).

What did you enjoy most about your T Level?

I thoroughly enjoyed the coding aspect of the course, as this made me think logically about how different pieces of code worked and how to put them together in a more complex piece of code. I additionally enjoyed the laws and ethics of using computers as this gave me an insight into the different things that you can and can't do on computers, and the potential repercussions if they are used inappropriately.

How did the work placement part of your T Level go?

Eventually, my work placement went very well. I say eventually, as I started my T Level during the height of the COVID pandemic in September 2020, so obviously when I started there were next to no offices open and then when we went into lockdown in January 2021, everything closed again. I eventually had a highly successful industrial placement with Scottish and Southern gas provider, SGN. I experienced every part of the IT Department, but with a keen interest in project management, as that is what I wish to go into in the future.

What opportunities has your T Level given you?

The T Level has given me many opportunities, for example if I wish to go to university (which I don't think I will) I can study software development. I can also return to SGN to do an apprenticeship should there be an opening with them as I made such a good impression whilst I was with them.

What have you done since your T Level?

Since my T Level, I have appeared in the Portsmouth News twice, appeared on the careers website Prospects, spoken at a T Level event at the House of Lords and at an NHS Conference to inspire NHS Leaders to take on T Level students. I am now working in the defence sector as a first line IT Shift Analyst with a major company with offices across the UK and the world.



Which achievements are you most proud of?

I've overcome many challenges during my T Level. For one, I am dyspraxic so that made a couple of things difficult for me during the course. I also had to go through the lockdowns, which made learning extremely difficult and caused me to go through a tough time during online learning, but I managed to complete my T Level despite the circumstances.

You can find out more about T Levels here:

<https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/>



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