

STUDENT SUCCESS



Name: **Matthew**

COURSE:

**Advanced Modern
Apprenticeship in
Design and Draft**

STUDIED AT NETA IN:

2004

What was the best bit?

I would say it had to be the rotation, learning new skills every week. Getting the chance to try things and expand your experience. It seemed fun at the time but it was actually very important, giving me an appreciation for what other trades did and how they worked together.

Aside from a qualification, what did you gain from your apprenticeship?

The apprenticeship gave me the skills I needed to be able to survive in what can be a difficult industry to work in. All the staff at NETA have industry experience which really helps to prepare you for working life.

Rather than walking out of university and looking for a job, I was in the thick of it, working, gaining experience and having a laugh in the process. An apprenticeship isn't just a means of education; it really helps build a career.

By the time I started my degree, I had 6 years' experience in industry and that is what is important. Employers like to see qualification, but couple that with experience and exposure to industry and you have the perfect result.

Why did you choose to study an apprenticeship?

I hated School, no simpler way to put it. But having a father who was a teacher, I knew education was important. I needed something that wasn't just classrooms and books. I decided that a work based apprenticeship was something that would give me everything I was looking for, education, experience and money.

Would you recommend NETA and why?

It's the best decision I ever made. Whilst other routes in education are brilliant, apprenticeships give you something that other routes cant, and that's experience.

I signed up at 16. By 17 I was working in a design office surrounded by chartered engineers. By 18 I was doing a HNC at Teesside University. By 20 I was a qualified Mechanical Designer, working for one of the largest engineering consultancy firms in the UK. I was part of the industry, working on live projects all over the world and getting paid to do so.

I was learning skills like welding and fabricating, things I was interested in but never had chance to do. Every day felt like a new adventure which kept the days interesting.