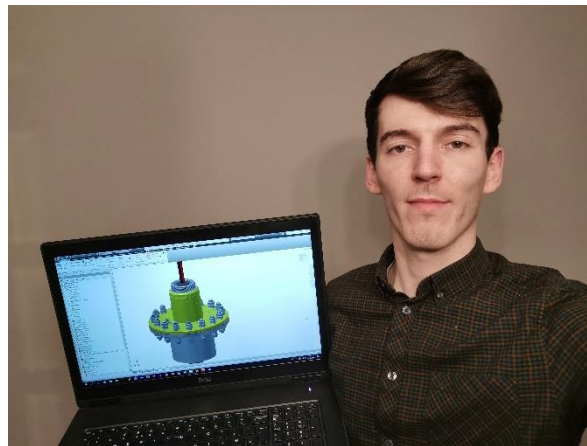


James Harrod - Design Engineer



My experience as an engineering apprentice

I had never fully considered a career in engineering until I discovered the Advanced Apprenticeship in Engineering advertised by JDR which made me realise how many of my problem-solving interests aligned with those required in engineering. In hindsight I put this late discovery down to the lack of awareness I had at the time for wider roles within engineering which only became apparent during the early stages of my apprenticeship.

The department rotation-based approach of JDR's engineering apprenticeship scheme gives apprentices a great opportunity to understand engineering from different department perspectives while working alongside qualified individuals. The exposure to colleagues who have years of experience has proved invaluable in my education and is as good as any learning opportunity you would receive at any educational institution. It was only because of this experience I became aware of the many different roles within engineering and I believe this lack of awareness still exists amongst many prospective engineering apprentices today.

Engineering is far more diversified than the typical hands-on roles people may associate with engineering.

Following my Advanced Apprenticeship in Engineering I progressed into my previous role as Design Technician and undertook a HNC in Mechanical Engineering as part of a Higher Apprenticeship in Engineering to study alongside my day-to-day role. This qualification gave me the knowledge and experience to progress into my current role as Design Engineer.

The competencies gained from my previous experiences also enabled me to join as a member to the Institution of Mechanical Engineers which provides engineers with a way to keep current with the latest engineering trends and information.