

My job involves assisting in the inspection of highway structures. I make site visits, write reports and liaise with the other staff involved. I have also been given a specific project to oversee from start to finish. This involves estimating the cost of a job, evaluating each tender, and attending meetings with the various contractors to discuss this. I then write a report on the best tender and pass this to my manager. I like the fact that every day is a new challenge. I also get a chance to go out on site visits which means that I am not just office based. I am involved with a variety of construction projects and am able to see them from start to finish.

After my A' levels, I went to university and gained a degree in Geography. I feel that my degree prepared me really well for working life, in that it gave me the skills needed to understand engineering terminology and concepts. My communication skills also improved as I had to do presentations and work in groups. The degree also provided me with a basic knowledge of the various aspects of the environment. I was interested in the post because it was related to my Geography Degree in terms of planning and the environmental impact. It sounded interesting and a good opportunity to develop. I applied for about 30 jobs before I was successful and got 3 interviews.

I was part of a Youth Council for six years, which involved organising events, running meetings, working with and gaining an understanding of how the city council is run. I also completed the Duke of Edinburgh award. The Youth Council experience was particularly useful as I gained an insight of how the council is run and got used to running and organising meetings and communicating with others.

I am currently studying for an ILM Level 4 in Management. I spend one day a week work time and a couple of hours of my own time doing this. In the future I would like to work within the environmental sector but this depends on the job market. I would like to work locally, but may have to expand my search further afield to get the job I want. The graduate scheme has helped me gain the qualifications, work experience and skills needed to achieve this.