Ben Kennils
Degree Apprentice - Quantity Surveyor

Ben started his degree in quantity surveying in September 2017, however, made the switch from full time student to become one of our degree apprentices in September last year. Now in his third year of study, he’s earning and learning and hasn’t looked back.

What were you like in school?
I never really had any problems in school, I could get the work done and still have a laugh with my mates. I thought I wanted to do sports science at university, so I picked A-Levels with that in mind. It wasn’t until I was looking at which University I wanted to go to that I began to think long-term and what career I’d do with sports science. My dad works in construction, and talking to him made me think differently about my choice of degree.

What made you pick Quantity Surveying?
Maths was always my strongest subject in school, so I knew I wanted to go into something that involves numbers. There are loads of trades in construction that involve numbers, but with Quantity Surveying I get to interact with them all. I find it so interesting seeing how all these different trades come together to make a building work, and it’s great to be able to say “I helped build that”.

What was your routeway into the industry?
After my A-Levels, I received an unconditional offer to study Quantity Surveying at Liverpool John Moores University. I was able to gain some work experience with M&E contractor A&B Engineering in their design department. Although this was an excellent experience, it wasn’t really relevant to my course. As a sub-contractor working on The Spine at Paddington Village, A&B introduced me to Morgan Sindall who offered me a 12 week summer work placement within their commercial team on the project. This went really well and I was then offered a place on their degree apprentice programme - I’ve never looked back since.

Describe a typical week as a degree apprentice
Four days of the week are spent working with Morgan Sindall on the project with one day spent at University. Whilst I do spend time based in the office, my job also involves getting out on site, seeing where parts of the project are up to. I get to speak to a lot of different people from different backgrounds and no two days are the same.

“Since starting my degree apprenticeship, I have learnt so much. I have been able to expand my knowledge on site at the same time as being sponsored through my degree. If that wasn’t enough earning money at the same time has been a huge bonus.”

Profile
Name: Ben Kennils  Age: 21
Current Project: The Spine, Paddington Village
Place of Birth: Runcorn
Education provider: Liverpool John Moores University
Best concert/gig: Creamfields
Favourite holiday destination: Portugal
Favourite restaurant: TGI Friday

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