



Based at Maple Lodge Sewage Treatment Works in Rickmansworth, Lauren is currently studying towards her degree in Quantity surveying at the University College of Estate Management. She spends one day a week attending webinars and completing online activities, readings and assignments set through the university virtual learning environment and spends the rest of her time supporting her line manager with delivering ongoing waste water projects.

Why did you choose to apply for a Thames Water apprenticeship?

I chose to apply for the Thames Water apprenticeship for many different reasons: not going to university after leaving school, due to not finding the right course for me, I wanted to gain more work experience before making my decision but always knowing I wanted to return to education at some point. I realised I didn't just want to study but also have the ability to use the knowledge learned in a practical way. When looking at and filtering through different apprenticeship offers for Quantity Surveying, Thames Water stood out as not only was it offering you the chance to gain a degree while developing real world skills but also the chance to gain your chartered status with RICS, also when looking at the company core values there was a strong focus on learning and development and diversity which really mattered to me. I feel really lucky to work at a company that is allowing me to develop and progress within a supportive environment.

Can you tell me about your life and career journey?

Growing up in a tiny little village in west Berkshire, I spent a lot of time outside. My first job was at a local equestrian yard then onto waitressing at a small village pub, I realised jobs affect how the things around me work. During secondary school I gained an interest in law and the built environment. After completing my A-Levels, not knowing exactly what degree to study, I left school not going to university and instead spent the next 3 years serving in the Royal Navy pushing myself outside my comfort zone, gaining invaluable life skills.

When it came to leaving, I started to look at quantity surveying degrees but I knew I didn't want to go back into full time study. I knew that an apprenticeship programme was the best way forward, not only to gain a degree but to continue to work and develop the skill needed to actually perform the role. My Thames Water apprenticeship offered me all of that and much much more.



If you're interested in doing an apprenticeship yourself, please contact: joinourfamily@thameswater.co.uk