

LUCY FITTON

Apprentice - Procurement Engineering



"A TYPICAL DAY INVOLVES A MIX OF ACTIVITIES THAT KEEP ME ENGAGED AND CONSTANTLY LEARNING."

WHAT MADE YOU APPLY FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP?

I chose to pursue an apprenticeship because I felt that university wasn't the right path for me. I wanted to gain real-world work experience while actively advancing both my skills and career.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING AN APPRENTICE?

Some of the key benefits I've gained from my apprenticeship include:

- **Hands-on experience:** Applying what I learn directly in a work environment allows me to develop practical skills and build confidence
- **Recognised qualifications:** I'm working toward the same qualifications as a university degree, but through a path that aligns more closely with my career goals
- **Earning while learning:** Unlike traditional study routes, my apprenticeship allows me to earn an income, giving me financial independence
- **Debt-free education:** By choosing an apprenticeship, I'm gaining valuable qualifications without taking on student debt.

These benefits made the apprenticeship the perfect route for me to grow professionally and achieve my career aspirations.

WHY DID YOU APPLY TO NG BAILEY?

For me it was their award-winning apprenticeship program and long-standing commitment to developing talent, with over 90 years of experience in training apprentices. This depth of expertise and proven success in apprenticeship education made NG Bailey the ideal choice to support my growth and career aspirations.

WHAT WOULD YOUR TOP TIP BE FOR ANYONE APPLYING FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP ROLE?

My top tip for anyone applying for an apprenticeship would be to research the company thoroughly and understand how the role aligns with your goals. Show that you're genuinely interested in the specific skills and industry knowledge the apprenticeship offers.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?

The biggest challenge has been mastering the balance between work responsibilities and continuous learning. With each new task and project, I am constantly building my skill set, but it can sometimes feel overwhelming to juggle the demands of on-the-job duties alongside training requirements. However, this has pushed me to become more organised, improve my time management, and reach out for support when needed.

WHAT PART OF THE ROLE GIVES YOU THE MOST PERSONAL SATISFACTION?

I would say seeing the direct influence of my efforts on the success of a project. Knowing that my contributions, from managing procurement processes to coordinating with other teams and helping to achieve good outcomes, is really fulfilling.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE?

A typical day involves a mix of activities that keep me engaged and constantly learning. I start by reviewing ongoing procurement tasks, making sure requests are moving smoothly through the process. I also collaborate with various teams – like estimating, operations, and commercial – meeting to discuss project strategies, supply chain management, and risk assessments. My day might also include time with the procurement manager, where I get guidance on tackling challenges or refining next steps for projects.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO IN YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?

I'm most looking forward to the continuous learning and growth opportunities in my career. Each new project presents a chance to develop my skills further and deepen my understanding.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT AS PART OF THE APPRENTICESHIP?

My greatest achievement has been completing my Level 4 and 5 courses. Alongside the coursework, I successfully passed 16 exams, which was incredibly rewarding. The knowledge and skills I've gained through this process will undoubtedly serve as a strong foundation for my future in procurement.