

CAREER SPOTLIGHT

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SAINT-GOBAIN



Tell us about your career at Saint-Gobain so far

I joined Pasquill in April 2019, I am currently an Apprentice Designer for the Huddersfield Branch. I have been trained to design posi-joists and I am currently learning how to design trusses, too.

Tell us about your role

I specifically design posi-joists, also known as metal webbed joists. My daily tasks involve gathering quote enquiries from various merchants and customers. I call the customer and begin the design and once completed I create a layout and quote of the design to send to the customer. I follow up the design and quote with the customer and log any notes through our dashboard system, to ensure that anyone who comes to view the job is aware of what stage the project is at.



You can do **anything** you set your **mind** to and as long as you put in the **hard work** and **effort**

you will **achieve** anything

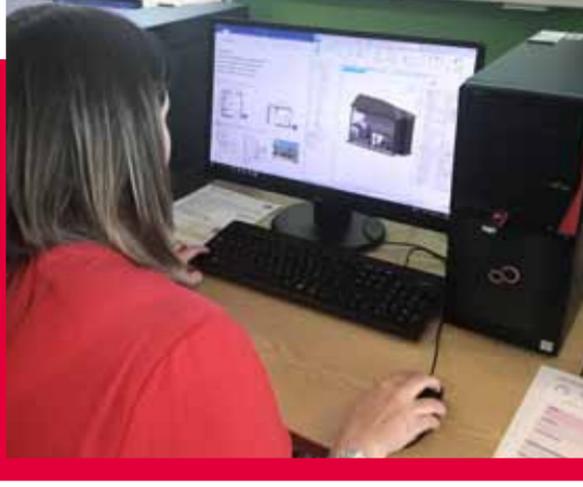


What made you want to work in your function and how did you start your career in this?

I had very little experience in construction as my previous roles involved working in schools and retail once I left school. I saw the post advertised for an Apprentice Designer at Pasquill Huddersfield and I wanted to push myself into something completely different. I had always been interested in construction, so when I saw the opportunity I went for it. I was attracted to the idea of an apprenticeship as it meant I would be trained on the job and complete a BTEC qualification, allowing me to earn and learn at the same time.

What advice would you give to someone hoping to start a career in your profession?

I would highly recommend any school leavers or people who want to make a change in their career to look into apprenticeships as they allow you to earn and learn. Never be afraid to ask questions and trust in your own ability.



What kind of skills and characteristics do you need to succeed in your role?

Good communication is key as you have to converse with both colleagues and customers. You must have the ability to problem solve and you need to be creative and passionate about design. Finally, commitment is a must as this particular job means you have a lot of responsibility so it is important to complete every job effectively and safely.

Where do you see yourself in five years' time?

I hope to have completed my apprenticeship at distinction level and be a fully trained Designer. I intend to be multi-skilled and designing posi-joists, JJI-Joists and trusses. I am confident in designing posi-joists, and I am now learning about truss designs having completed training at MiTek, a specialist in the development of software solutions for structural timber engineering. I'm already getting closer to my goal, however as Saint-Gobain is such a large company who knows where I might end up! There are so many opportunities and that's what is so great about working here.

How has Saint-Gobain supported you to develop in your role?

The support I have received has been fantastic. When I completed my intensive eight-week course, my manager and HR manager kept in contact with me throughout - they even attended the college to observe a presentation I had created as part of my course. All of my colleagues have been extremely supportive, providing guidance and advice.

What challenges have you faced during your career and how have you overcome these?

Completing the eight-week intensive course was tough. I had a lot of information to absorb and I had no previous experience in construction so everything was brand new to me. However, I overcame this through support from my tutors at college. Another challenge was learning the technical language, there are so many different components within design.

What's your favourite thing about working for Saint-Gobain?

Every day is different, no two jobs are ever the same. My previous jobs didn't challenge me and I found them to be repetitive, but in this job I am learning new things and being creative. I am a 'people person' - this job allows me to interact with customers on a daily basis.



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What do you think is the biggest issue facing women in the workplace?

The biggest issue I find women face in construction, is that it's quite a male dominated environment. I do feel this is changing and more women are taking steps to change the way women are viewed in construction.

Which women inspire you?

Amanda Horbury is the manager in our design office and she has a lot of knowledge and experience and just takes everything in her stride. I hope to one day be as successful as her!

Ahead of International Women's Day, what is the most important message you want to send to women thinking about their careers?

The message I want to send out to all women who are thinking of a career change is to just go for it! You can do anything you set your mind to and as long as you put in the hard work and effort you will achieve anything. I never thought I would be where I am today but I have no regrets and it was the best decision I ever made.