

Case Study

Ashley Simmons – Graduate Engineer

Ashley Simmons was awarded an MEng in Aerospace Engineering (Merit) from the University of Surrey in June 2008. He joined Bombardier on the graduate training scheme in September 2008 and works as a Graduate Engineer in Passengers division.

As part of the induction to the company Ashley, along with other members from his intake, was shown presentations giving an overview of the company and the activities being undertaken currently by the UK business unit. A highlight of the session was the opportunity to meet the President of the Passengers Division in the UK.

Ashley then attended a nine day training course, giving an overview of the rail industry and rolling stock engineering. This was something Ashley found especially informative and useful as he did not come from a rail background and as such did not have much detailed knowledge of the industry and the components that integrate to form a train.

Ashley is currently in his second year of the training scheme and has undertaken rotations in three different projects and one rotation within the Engineering Development Lab (EDL). The projects were all at different stages in their life cycle and gave Ashley the opportunity to experience working both at the conception/bid phase and the first build stage and to see the different aspects of Engineering.

Ashley has worked on London Underground projects being undertaken by Bombardier and is currently part of the Vehicle Design and Bids team. He acted as Systems Engineer for the smoke detection system and has been involved in the testing of smoke detection, HVAC, doors, lighting and seating systems.

One of highlights of the graduate scheme for Ashley has been the opportunity to attend the regular Graduate Workshops held at different locations in Europe, which has not only allowed to him to see different Bombardier manufacturing sites in the Czech Republic and Germany, but has also given him the opportunity to network and become friends with graduates from this wider community.

"I was attracted to Bombardier due to it being a successful and global company, and the graduate scheme in particular because of its flexibility and the opportunities that it offers. I feel this is a company that really cares about the development of its graduates and sees them as an integral part of the future success of the company."