

# Case Study

## Gemma Smedley – Graduate Project Manager

Gemma Smedley was awarded a BA (Hons) in Business Studies at Nottingham Trent University. She joined Bombardier in 2008 as a Project Management Graduate.

The first few months gave an introduction to the company as a whole, key personnel and the processes in place. The result was a steep learning curve but an informative and interesting time.

The graduate scheme comes with the benefit of developing soft skills, as well as on the job training. The graduate training includes everything that could be needed from presentations and meeting skills to leadership.

Gemma is into the 2nd year of her graduate scheme and has already covered a great deal in the first year. Her placements have included working across three projects, Turbostar, Victoria Line Upgrade and Sub Surface Line. Each of these projects has presented new challenges.

The Turbostar project was her first project, and she worked across the Project Management, Engineering and Procurement functions during her 8 months on the project. This gave a really good insight into how a project works and the different challenges the functions have.

Gemma's next placement was with the Victoria Line Upgrade team. This was a 2 month placement with one clear objective. This objective was a key milestone for the project and therefore facilitating the success felt like a real achievement.

The next and current placement was with the Sub Surface Line project. Project Management is such a broad area that again different objectives could be set. Gemma was involved in the logistics of a transit move between the Derby site, an external test site and its final location in London. Other elements of this project included reviewing the change control and defects process.

Across all placements, there was a consistent opportunity to interface directly with external stakeholders including customers, suppliers and government bodies and to understand the key aspects of project management in completely different contexts.

Gemma's long term plans are to develop a career in Project Management and remain an asset to the company.

*"Bombardier gives real jobs to graduates and provides the tools and support for successful execution of your career objectives. It is your scheme and you can drive it in the direction you want it to go."*