

CASE STUDY: Balfour Beatty



MEET OUR APPRENTICES

Rory Mair

Job title	Apprentice electrician
Location	Edinburgh
Apprenticeship type	M&E
Qualification/education level	Four year electrical apprenticeship
Date joined	2013



Please provide a brief summary of your role, the project you are supporting and the type of work you undertake on a daily basis:

I am currently based at the Holyrood Student Accommodation project which involves the construction of eight new buildings predominantly for accommodation but also with some educational areas, student counselling and recreational areas and also some retail space. I really enjoy working with the team based in Edinburgh. They are always available to answer any questions I may have and provide any assistance required in order to successfully tackle the task at hand.

I am currently in the second year of my apprenticeship and find my work very exciting and challenging. I feel I have gained a lot of experience and that I am progressing well. Sites are constantly changing and therefore the tasks vary from day to day. In order to keep on top of the risks this creates we carry out daily task briefings to advise the team of any changes to areas on site.

We are progressing well at Holyrood and the team are aware of the importance of Zero Harm and the adherence to the Golden Rules in order to have a safe and reliable site allowing you to work with a clear conscience knowing you and your team are working safely.

What attracted you to Balfour Beatty?

The chance to join Balfour Beatty was a great opportunity and one I immediately took. Balfour Beatty is a huge company in the construction industry. Although it is a global company it is also spread out over smaller areas which provide vast amounts of varying types of work and opportunities to gain experience. It is a very ambitious company which I felt would fit well with my own ambitions. I want to develop into an experienced, reliable and trustworthy electrician and I believe I Balfour Beatty will provide the opportunities for me to achieve this. Balfour Beatty Engineering Services (BBES) is approachable and accommodating and I hope to repay the opportunity they have afforded me.

What development opportunities have you been given whilst in your role?

My team has allowed me to work and learn via many different tasks and situations. I have been given some level of responsibility by my team where I have been handed an area, advised of the task and various requirements and been left to progress the works the way I feel they should be carried out, whilst knowing my supervisor and management are there to provide assistance should I require any. As I am still only in my second year I appreciate that there are certain aspects of this job that are not yet available to me.

I have also attended training courses, including Asbestos Awareness and Fire Safety Awareness which was not only made me more experienced but also allowed me to feel like a more significant member of the team.

I have worked on various projects each at a different stage of installation. This has allowed me to gain experience with the installation of containment systems and wiring of lighting, emergency lighting, lighting control (including Dali Dimming) and small power systems. I have also been involved with terminations at the distribution board and assisted with testing and inspection.

How has Balfour Beatty played a role in your long term career goals?

Obviously both my personal future and career are very important to me. Balfour Beatty is currently guiding me on a great path. They have and continue to offer me great levels of support and constantly prompt me to challenge myself in order to

flourish. My immediate future goals are to complete my apprenticeship and become a competent electrician and be well regarded by my work mates. I would then like to make the step up to an approved electrician and be held highly regarded and seen as an important person within the company.

Once I have finished my apprenticeship, should an opportunity arise to work overseas with Balfour Beatty I feel this would provide great experience.

What has been your highlight so far at Balfour Beatty?

Other than earning the trust of my supervisors, I would say my highlight so far has been the completion of the 50 George Square and David Hume Tower Basement Projects. These were two educational buildings that were linked via the basement and involved a high level of interaction between the two sites. I worked on both sites throughout each phase of installation, from strip out of existing services to installing new containment and wiring through to switching on power.

This was the first project on which I have been present all the way through and I felt immensely proud and honoured seeing the building fully lit and knowing I was part of the team that had achieved this.

What one thing surprised you most about working for Balfour Beatty?

I knew Balfour Beatty was a large and well run organisation but I was surprised when I realised exactly how big a company it is on a global scale and the different smaller companies that make up the group.

Also the support I have received has been of the highest standard and if I have any issues, whether they are personal or work related, I know and trust my team will help me.

What are the top three tips/pieces of advice you would give to anyone thinking of applying to Balfour Beatty?

1. Be confident, eager and willing to learn and Balfour Beatty will help you achieve your goals and don't be afraid to set yourself a big goal.
2. Ask questions and you may find the answers you seek are within reach.
3. Research the company and understand its structure, processes and goals in order to ensure you are right for each other and you can progress within the company.