

Find out what work experience at BHR is like in our interview with student: Summer Cutts



Summer Cutts
2nd Year BTEC Student

When Summer Cutts approached us to help her fulfil her work experience obligation, we were delighted to introduce her to some of the challenges of fluid engineering. We talked to Summer at the end of her 20 hour work placement to see what she'd learned.

What are you currently studying?

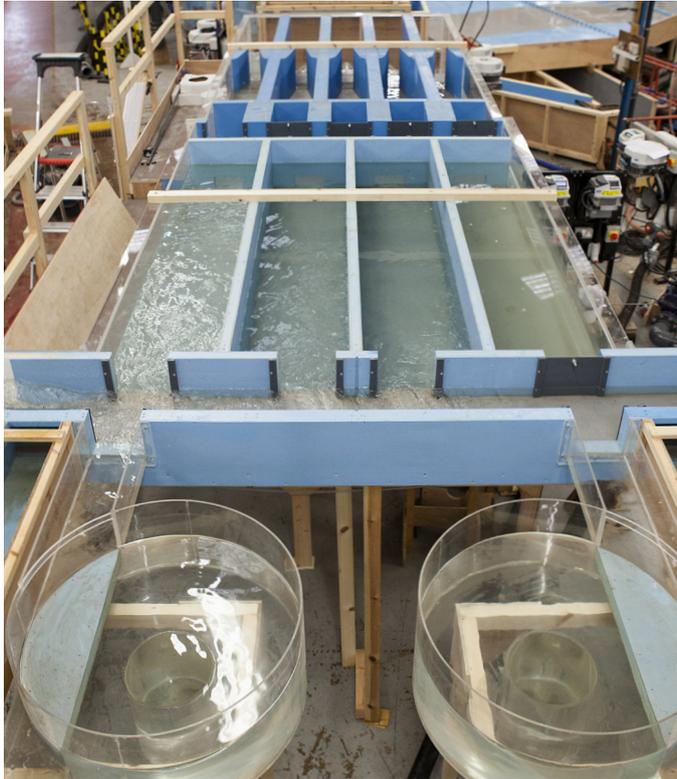
I'm currently in my second year of my BTEC level 3 mechanical extended diploma at Bedford College. The course covers a lot of different things, such as further maths for engineering technicians, mechanical principles and applications, mechanical systems and fluid mechanics (to name a few!).

Why did you choose BHR for your work experience?

As part of my course it's compulsory to do 20 hours of relevant work experience. The College does provide a company to work with, but as I'd already had some work experience at this company previously, I wanted to push myself to try something a little different - something that I hadn't already done.

I was looking for some experience that would be useful for my future career, I couldn't think of a clear career path and then a friend suggested going into fluid engineering things that could involve refrigeration and water systems for residential or business areas. I had a look on the internet and BHR came up. I wrote BHR an email and got a really quick response, we then worked through the placement requirements and before I knew it, it was time to come and join you for the week.





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What have you learned during your time here? What have you been doing?

From today I feel like I know a lot more than I did on Monday when I started! I had some basic knowledge of fluid engineering from college, but initially the team were using a lot of terminology I wasn't aware of. However Richard Brewis was able to explain things I couldn't understand which has been great. We do a lot of theoretical at college, so it was really good to work with the theories I learned in a working environment such as dynamic/static flow rate. Seeing the practical application of engineering theory has been really helpful to me, as I'm a visual learner. I feel that when I go onto level 4 of my studies (a HNC), I will find it easier to understand now.

At BHR I've also learned about hydraulic jump, sub critical and super critical flow, Froude number and scaling. Darren White was great at explaining these, even lending me a book on practical hydraulics. It was interesting to learn that there are multiple ways to scale a prototype down, as I hadn't got to that yet in my studies. In addition to working with Darren White and Richard Brewis on some of the live engineering projects, I also spent some time with Dean Linsell, one of the apprentices, who gave me lots of information about being an apprentice here whilst we were moving pipework on one of the projects he was working on. I found that really interesting too.

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What did you enjoy most about your week here?

It's just been great to be here and see the operations. Just generally seeing the practical application of the theory was fantastic. Observing Darren and talking through the problems he was having with his model was really interesting. I learned a lot seeing how he worked through the challenges and made different improvements. I did a lot of velocity testing which was good too!

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What made you choose engineering as a profession?

I've always been interested in structures, designing, how things are made – those sort of things. I was the type of child who dismantled things to see how they're put together and I like problem solving and puzzles but I also like art, music and sports. There are great opportunities in engineering as a career and although there are times when some of the concepts are difficult to grasp it's so interesting that I've never wanted to give up and do something else.

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Find out more about BHR's work experience opportunities:

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