



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

James Starr from Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire



Year 4 - MEng Chemical
Engineering with Fuel
Technology

Chemical & Process Engineering.

Why did you choose Sheffield?

Mainly for the city and the people as I knew the Department and the University had a good reputation. The people in Sheffield are really helpful and friendly, which is a good thing when moving to a new place with no friends.

What do you like about:

Sheffield?

It is a brilliant place and I have become quite loyal towards it since starting in 2002. The city centre is always bustling with people and there are all the main shops, but if shopping is what you're looking for Meadowhall shopping centre is the place to go. The city is also undergoing a mass of re-developments with buildings shooting up everywhere.

The Department?

It is so easy to go and speak to someone if something is not going as it should or you have any questions. You are given a personal tutor from the off, but you can so easily go and speak to any of the lecturers or postgrads if you need or want to. The Department is very well structured and really capable of imparting knowledge. It has many areas of expertise and is academically a good department. It has a committee that organises events and socials to bring all students together, not just from each year but from all years in the department.

The University?

The University of Sheffield as a whole is well-respected so I'm not going to bang on about the academic side, but I will talk of the social side instead. The University has one of the largest Unions in the country. They do all kinds of sports and activities, not just the usual football and rugby etc., but weird and quirky ones too. However, unlike most Universities, you don't have to join societies for a whole year when you don't even know if you want to as there is this thing called "Give it a Go". This is where you pay a nominal amount and try something out and the choices change every week with lots to choose from.

Has your course lived up to your expectations?

I feel the course has exceeded my expectations, with the main reason being my research project. A couple of years ago I would never have thought I would be working in an old ammunition bunker with a submarine engine as my compressor on a research project that is at the cutting edge of its field.

Tell us about your Year in Industry

Between the 3rd and 4th year I worked for a company called British Nuclear Group as one of the design engineers in the High Level Waste Plant Department. Here I was designing processes for Sellafield. I learnt many things during my year and was placed on many different projects. This year enabled me to consolidate everything I had learnt at university so far as well as some things you probably wouldn't learn. I would thoroughly recommend a year in industry to anyone. It allows you to take a break from studies and earn some money while gaining valuable experience in the field and meeting more new and interesting people from many different disciplines.

What are you going to do next?

Hopefully I will be working as a chemical engineer in a contracting company. I chose contracting companies as I felt the work I would be likely to face would be varied and very dependent on time; time is money after all.