

Spotlight^L on FORMER Apprentices

Jessica Sévellec



Thatcham
Research
AUTOMOTIVE ACADEMY

Job Title:
Workshop Lead

Current Employer:
Solus Accident Repair Centre, Coventry

Apprenticeship:
Level 3 M.E.T.

Start date:
2014 aged 18

Starting apprentice salary:
£10-12,000 per annum

Finish date:
2017

Finishing apprentice salary:
£12-13,000 per annum

School attended:
Queen Elizabeth School and Sports College, Atherstone



How did you get on at School?

I enjoyed school and achieved good results with A's and B's.



Q What career advice did you receive at school?

a The career advice at school was aimed mostly at students going to university.

Why did you decide to do an apprenticeship?

I wanted the certainty of a career and I decided the best way to achieve this through an apprenticeship. My passion is cars and I felt that an apprenticeship in this area would be a great way to learn. I looked at vehicle repair apprenticeships and did a lot of research and decided that I would pursue the Mechanical, Electrical and Thermal (M.E.T.) route. Getting to train and work with cars would be a tremendous experience.

What perceptions did you have about the automotive sector before you started your apprenticeship?

I didn't really have any perceptions about the sector before I started. My experience has been hugely positive – I have been well treated and gotten on with everybody.



Who do you work for now and what does your current role involve?

I still work for Solus Accident Repair in Coventry. In February 2020, I became the Workshop Lead. I am responsible as part of the leadership team here at Solus Coventry for running the workshop. This means selecting jobs to maintain the flow of work through the workshop, dealing with issues that arise and finding solutions, setting delivery dates and completing jobs once they meet our standard of repair. Every day is a new challenge to get to grips with.

Who did you work for whilst completing your apprenticeship?

I worked for Solus Accident Repair in Coventry while I did my M.E.T. apprenticeship.





What do you love about your job?

I get a great sense of satisfaction when I finish a job. The feeling of repairing a car back to its pre-accident condition, followed by the reaction from the customer when they come to collect their car is wonderful.

Q Would you recommend the apprenticeship route to students considering a career?

a Definitely. I don't think that there is a better way to learn really. You gain more hands on and practical experience than you could every get on a course or from a book. It also means that you've pretty much got a guaranteed job at the end of it in the sector that you've trained in. Apprenticeships in the vehicle repair sector offer you a really exciting career.

Q What advice would you give to a student considering their career options?

a Think about what you have a passion for and maybe do some work experience in the areas that you are interested in. If you have a passion for it, you're halfway there.



Would you recommend Thatcham Research Automotive Academy for apprenticeship training?

I would strongly recommend Thatcham Research for their apprentice training. I always learnt things and the staff are all very knowledgeable and helpful. It's a great environment to learn in.

Vehicle Repair Sector

The car as we know it is changing, rapidly. The Automotive Industry is experiencing a tidal wave of technological innovation both on vehicles and in the repair process. New materials in vehicle design such as carbon fibre, ultra-high strength steel and aluminium, vehicle to vehicle connectivity, electrification, advanced driving assistance systems and the development of autonomous vehicles are just some of the opportunities. The repair sector is experiencing a shortage of technicians and this combined with the technological innovation, presents you with a real opportunity for rapid career advancement.

Why Thatcham Research for Apprenticeship Training?

We offer industry leading training in world class facilities and our dedicated apprentice academy offers the latest equipment, a safe and secure environment, and access to a variety of vehicles. Apprentices receive a blended programme of practical, theoretical and online learning. Our online learning platform, ecademy supports apprentices during their programme of learning. Our training expertise is supported by our repair technologies centre and Bodyshop of the Future.

Since 2004, Thatcham Research Automotive Academy have trained over 1,550 apprentices.

We offer exciting new career opportunities, exposing apprentices to the latest vehicles and technology whilst learning the latest technical repair methods to keep vehicles and road users safe.

In March 2019, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) confirmed that Thatcham Research Automotive Academy had recorded 92% for our apprenticeship training Qualification Achievement Rates.



Thatcham
Research
AUTOMOTIVE ACADEMY



For further information and guidance please contact:



01635 293174



thatcham.org/apprenticeships

