

Arqiva Apprentice

Name: Beth Smalley
Role: Apprentice Associate Project Manager
BU: TEL&M2: E&I Transformation
College: Brockenhurst College



Why did you decide to apply to Arqiva?

I came to my final year of college, still didn't know what I wanted to do after college and so over Christmas of 17' I started to scroll through job sites and look at apprenticeships on the Gov. site findapprenticeships.com to find something that sounded interesting, sounded like I could learn and experience some good versatile skills. This is when I decided I wanted to be a project manager, the more project management jobs I looked into, the more interesting it sounded. I quickly realised that obviously I had no experience and no project management skills or qualifications and so I needed to look for an apprenticeship (I already knew Uni wasn't for me). This is when I came across the Arqiva apprenticeship on Indeed.com. I had never heard of Arqiva before, but the job description and the list of roles and responsibilities intrigued me, so I researched the company more and decided it was definitely worth applying. I didn't expect I'd get that far as I had never even heard of Arqiva until this point, but you never know until you try!

What are some of the benefits of the emerging talent apprentice scheme at Arqiva?

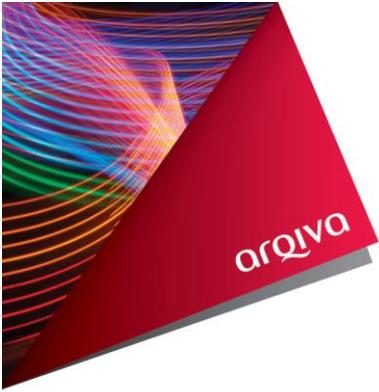
At Arqiva I am given so much support from my manager and my team around me, since September I have experienced so much and already gained so much knowledge. My manager encourages me to go on all the relevant training courses available at Arqiva, so I can get a breadth of skills and training under my belt so that once I have finished my apprenticeship I am more likely to have more options and opportunities to go forward into which is great.

What advice would you give to potential applicants?

Be confident. I think the main bit of advice I'd give is definitely be confident, be confident in yourself be confident in your skills, your experience and be confident with what you are delivering and your knowledge of the company. During my application process I was not very confident that I was going to get the job, I had been turned away by a lot of jobs I had already applied for because they weren't apprenticeships and I didn't have experience so Arqiva was the first apprenticeship I had applied for so I wasn't confident I'd get very far but I was very willing to try. When I got through to the assessment day I was very confident with what I was talking about during my presentation, I had researched the company, thought of some interview questions so I felt good and ready for the interview and I definitely believe this helped me during the day.

I would also say as I mentioned above, be willing, show that you want to learn and that you are willing to get stuck in and be of as much use as you can be. This will make sure that you come across as a good team player and someone people want to work for them.

What do you enjoy about working at Arqiva?



Arqiva look after their employees, I work in the Crawley Court office and I love the grounds at Crawley, it has a great canteen with good Breakfast Wraps! I have a great team who are all so welcoming and helpful, but it isn't just my team that is helpful, anyone you speak to is always friendly and willing to give help or advice. One other good thing about working at Arqiva is the fact that they have been providing apprenticeships for 10 years, so they know what they are doing when it comes to apprentices, there are lots of old and current apprentices still working at Arqiva who are great to talk to for advice and hear their stories in the company.

What has been your favorite Arqiva moment?

I think my favorite Arqiva moment has probably been filming my managing director for his introduction to our SharePoint, we spent more time setting up the room and the equipment than he did thinking about what he wanted to say and saying it! It was amazing, he walked in the room, asked if we were ready, sat down and then just reeled off this perfect 3-minute speech which was exactly what we needed from him with not a single mistake. Bearing in mind this was within my first few weeks at Arqiva it just amazed me that someone could be so on it and so ready like he was and that's stuck with me since!

What's coming up next in your Arqiva journey?

Over the next year I will be taking my APM exam in the summer, we have our outwards bound apprenticeship trip in the Lake District and then I will be prepping for our final assessment in the summer of 2020. Myself and the other apprentice have lots of YAAN (Young Apprentice Ambassador Network) visits booked in to visit school and we also have some extra training courses to strengthen our knowledge and help with our apprenticeship. Alongside this I will continue to work with my mentor on projects within the transformation team at Arqiva and get as much project management experience as I can.