

> Case Study

Richard Davies

STEM WORKS

Cogent skills
for science industries



Profile:

Age: 27

Location:
Stanlow Oil Refinery,
Ellesmere Port, Wirral

Company:
Essar Oil (UK) Ltd

Job: Mechanical
Inspection Engineer

My job – what I do

Stanlow Oil Refinery takes oil and by using refining processes makes vital fuels such as petrol, diesel, jet fuel and other chemical products. The refinery has approximately 450 storage tanks on site and it is my responsibility to inspect them to ensure that they are safe to use.

My qualifications

I started my career in science through an advanced level **apprenticeship**, where I was able to gain a BTEC national certificate and NVQ Level 3 in Process Engineering Maintenance. I then went on to study for higher qualifications in Mechanical Engineering through day release and **distance learning**.

With these qualifications I was then fortunate enough to be sponsored for my degree, which I have now completed in Industrial Engineering BEng (Hons). Throughout my time in the science sector I have been able to work with a number of different organisations and was nominated for and won a number of awards for my work.

I was extremely proud to win the Young Ambassador Award for the **Chemical Industries Association**, which allowed me to work with the **HSE** on their 'Hidden Killer – Asbestos' campaign and also work with a number of MPs and visit parliament to do a speech on young people in industry.

How I got into science

I started A-Levels in Biology, Maths and History, but realised that it just wasn't for me. I then started my **apprenticeship** with TTE Training LTD in Ellesmere Port. When I completed my apprenticeship, I was offered a position with the company and have worked in a science based career ever since.

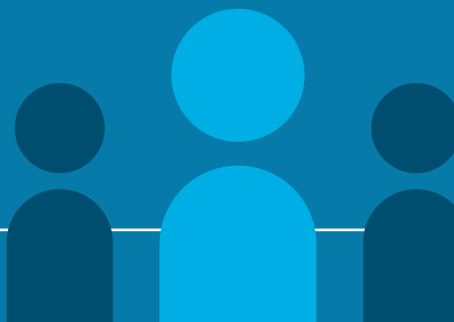
What I do on a typical day

What I love about my job is that every day is different and is never predictable! Generally each morning I sit down with my team and discuss what is planned for the day and anything critical that may be getting worked on at the moment. My time can then either be spent in the office attending meetings for site issues and planning, or out on site inspecting tanks.

In my position I am able to interact with a number of different professions and levels within the company, which I enjoy as I am able to appreciate the broad spectrum of careers that are available not only within the 'science' sector, but also just within one company.

The best 3 things about my job

1. I get to manage my own work, I have tasks and targets which I need to complete but I can arrange when to complete work with the help of my team.
2. My employer, Essar Oil (UK) Ltd, supports me in my career development and is keen for me to progress, having recently sponsored my degree training.
3. No two days are ever the same. There are always new and interesting challenges for me to focus on and consequently I am always learning.



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My biggest science inspiration

Space Exploration has always fascinated me. Science has enabled astronauts to go into space and land on the moon.

Recently, the **Bloodhound Project** has shown how hundreds of people are able to contribute to a science project to break world records.

In the future

I enjoy the department that I work in at the moment and am fortunate enough to work with a good team, so I would like continue working within the same area. However, I would like to be able to become the Team Leader or Manager of the department.

Having recently completed my Degree, I would also like to go on and study for my Masters.

Why should young people consider a career in science?

Science covers so many different companies and industries and isn't restricted to 'Lab' work. There are hundreds of different roles which are interesting and rewarding. Like me, you don't need to be a scientist to have a career in science.

With this in mind, training to work within the science sector puts you in good stead for a number of different careers and possibilities. It's fun and there is always something new to learn!

Jargon Buster

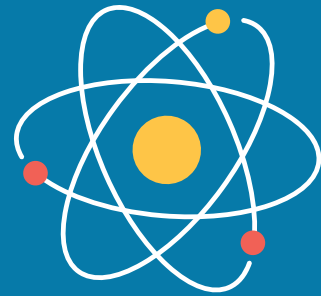
Apprenticeship - There are different levels of apprenticeships, but they are all work based training programmes where people work in real jobs and earn money whilst working towards recognised qualifications. Depending on the job you are doing and the qualification you need to do the job, sometimes the learning takes place in colleges and sometimes in universities.

Distance Learning - Distance learning (usually learning and submitting work to the college or university over the internet) is a way for people who are working full time or can't get to the college or university because of the distance, to still study. Other people may choose to study this way through choice.

The Chemical Industries Association - The main Trade Organisation for the Chemical Industries – this is a kind of club where any company that makes, processes, distributes or develops chemicals can join to get benefits.

HSE – Health and Safety Executive - The Health and Safety Executive believes everyone has the right to come home safe and well from their job. That's why their mission is to prevent work-related death, injury and ill health. They help to advise companies on what they can do to make the work environment safe for employees, visitors and the general public.

Bloodhound Project - An exciting project to build a supersonic car that will go faster than 1,000 miles per hour. Your school may already be involved with this project.



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