





Apprentice Q&A with Madeleine Warbuton

Offshore Wind Turbine Technician Apprentice

We spoke with Madeleine Warburton, an Offshore Wind Turbine Technician Apprentice, to learn more about their experience in the programme. From developing key skills to sharing their highlights, Madeleine gives us an inside look at what it's like to train with RWE.

Experience

"One highlight was going offshore for the first time last summer and seeing what my future job could be like"

What skills have you learnt so far during your apprenticeship?

Technically, I've gained skills in electrical installations, hydraulic systems, mechanical assembly, and welding. I've realised during the apprenticeship that I already had a lot of the basics from school, but seeing all this knowledge come together and applying it has been amazing.

I've also had offshore experience, like climbing turbines. It was a great opportunity to apply the skills I've developed so far and see the practical side of my training. I've still got quite a bit to learn but I'm proud of how far I've come.



What has been your highlight of the programme?

One highlight was going offshore for the first time last summer and seeing what my future job could be like.

Another was being nominated for the Young Energy Professional Award and being the youngest person at the ceremony.

Going to the Awards as a nominee and meeting all the people in the industry was great. It was also inspiring to see really strong female role models on the stage. At the ceremony, questions were asked around how many people entered the industry through degrees vs. apprenticeships. It was great to see this balance, and how there are so many people who didn't take the traditional degree route. This is very reassuring to me as a young apprentice.



Advice

"Networking and seeking opportunities are key to success, and apprenticeships offer a great way to gain practical experience"

What advice would you like to give to applicants who are interested in an apprenticeship?

Be proactive and explore your interests. There are so many resources online, especially with many activities becoming virtual since lockdown. Platforms like the Girls' STEM Society offer opportunities to connect with like-minded people, join hackathons, and learn more about different industries.

Because someone once helped me, I'm passionate about mentoring others. I've already encouraged a student to consider apprenticeships when his school didn't present it as an option. Networking and seeking opportunities are key to success, and apprenticeships offer a great way to gain practical experience while working toward your goals.



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