



Powersystems Graduates Are powering the Transition to a Carbon Free Future



Introducing Graduate Engineer: **Jacob Turner**

Why have you chosen electrical engineering as your career?

Hi, my name is Jacob, I am currently a graduate engineer at Powersystems.

Before university, I had a keen interest in renewable energy and power distribution. I studied electrical and electronic engineering at Loughborough University. I chose to study electrical engineering at university to learn more about the fundamentals and to get a great job in the industry. I completed work experience and part time roles at the National Grid, an electronics company, and a transformer assembly firm, which also helped me realise the line of work I wanted to do.

Why did you choose Powersystems?

I chose Powersystems for several reasons, one of those being variety which is important to me.

Whilst working at Powersystems I have been exposed to a broad range of works; from designing cable routes, carrying out cable testing, liaising with clients, getting involved in site installation, and so much more. I have found the scope of works fascinating.

I also wanted to work somewhere that would be interesting, and where I would always find questions to ask and learn something new. I am glad that Powersystems has given me that.

The interview process required submitting my CV with a covering letter, followed by an initial meeting with the Managing Director Chris Jenkins.

After that, I underwent an assessment followed by a final interview. I found this process useful to understand more about what Powersystems did and what my role would look like.

The assessment was challenging in terms of some of the unfamiliar questions and I had to think on my feet to logically answer them well.

The final interview was more relaxed, it was an overview of everything previously covered, as well as a chance for me to ask more questions to get to know the company.

Tell us about the differences between life in university and life at a place of work?

The biggest difference I found was the structure.

At university, it was much more self-led, and it was necessary to motivate myself to complete assignments, coursework, and revision.

I have found that in a work environment, it is much easier to self-motivate as you have working and non-working hours.

I now find it easier to separate work from my personal life.

I also find the support given in work is much better. I don't have to look far to find someone who is willing to help me with a problem!

Powersystems Graduates are powering the transition to a carbon free future

The Powersystems graduate structure

I started working for Powersystems in October 2020. When I started, I was given an overview of what kind of things I would be doing over the next 2-3 years.

The graduate structure was designed to give me a thorough look into key areas of the business, and to fully understand what Powersystems do.

I was also given an option after the first 3 months to decide what kind of career direction I wanted to take – either following a design engineer route, or a project engineering route.

I preferred the project engineering side, which has enabled me to continue my journey and I am now managing my own projects.

I have been able to change my decision at any point, however I really enjoying the route I have taken.

I have also been shadowing an engineer at Powersystems throughout the graduate scheme and this has been invaluable. It has meant that I have learnt a lot from being exposed to many different types of projects, and how projects should be designed, managed, installed, and commissioned.

What further learning have you undertaken outside of working at Powersystems to develop yourself professionally?

Alongside working for Powersystems, I have also completed training courses closely linked to the industry, such as a distance learning electricity distribution course.

I am actively working towards chartership alongside my work.

I am a member of the IET, and through the work I'm doing at Powersystems, I hope to become a Chartered Engineer in the future.

Tell us about a typical week at Powersystems

Typically, I work 3-4 days per week in the office and 1-2 days per week on a client's project site.

This has provided valuable insight into the types of works that occur on site and has also provided the direct experience working with the specialist site teams to install and implement projects as they have been designed.

When on site, I assist the site supervisor with anything from ensuring method statements are being followed, discussing future milestones of the project, answering design questions, liaising with the client, ordering equipment and much more.

I've gained incredible experience from being on site and witnessing works first hand. I have even been able to try my hand at cable jointing whilst working at Powersystems!

Whilst in the office, I have gained financial experience with managing purchase orders and invoices to understand budgets controls better.

I have gained further project and technical management as well as Health and Safety experience through creating risk assessments and method statements (RAMS), compiling

operation and maintenance (O&M) documents, producing cable schedules, completing, or checking drawings on AutoCAD, reaching out for quotes for equipment, client, and supplier meetings, as well as training workshops.

I have found it very rewarding having a varied workload and managing the responsibilities that this has brought, this depth of experience and broadened knowledge is enabling me to become a better engineer.

I find most days that there is an opportunity to realise how far I've come from my first day at Powersystems. It is incredibly satisfying to look back on some work, or an accomplishment that day or week, and know that it was something I couldn't have done a year and a half ago.

The biggest change I've noticed is in my confidence and ability to work under pressure. There are quite a few occasions where I have realised that I have done a piece of work, completed a drawing or had a conversation with a client, where I haven't doubted myself. It's satisfying to know that I am building on a lot of skills, and becoming a better engineer.

What are the benefits for working at Powersystems?

I enjoy the work itself, the satisfaction that comes with the work I'm doing is very rewarding. I also gain tremendously from being around highly experienced and knowledgeable engineers. This means that I have developed more quickly and that I haven't felt stranded when working. Another benefit is the fact that the business is employee owned. As well as getting a say in the direction of the company, the profit share we receive is also a bonus.

Engineers of the future

I think when you are starting to plan your career, it is important to be interested in the industry that you want to work in. If you have a natural interest in your work, it is very easy to find the motivation to work hard. In electrical engineering, you will go further if you have a strong work ethic, a willingness to learn, ask questions, and bring a positive attitude each day.

There are big challenges for electrical engineers to solve in the UK to achieve net zero. These challenges also bring big opportunities and chances for individuals and teams to make a difference and solve engineering problems through innovation, efficiencies and finding solutions to some of the worlds now most complex challenges.



For more information

T 01454 318000

www.powersystemsuk.com