

Learner Case Study

Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing, including Food Manufacturing and related Industrial Chemistry

Rachel's Story

Over the last 15 years, Rachel has demonstrated exceptional educational commitment and sustained industrial success. Through this period Rachel has achieved effective work-life balance, managing the renovation of a new house with the part-time achievement, with merits and distinctions, of a YTS in Engineering (KITS 1991), a Foundation Year (Huddersfield Technical College 1992), ONC Mechanical Engineering (Huddersfield Technical College 1993), HNC Mechanical Engineering (Huddersfield University 1996) and commencement of a flexible BEng Computer Aided Engineering (Huddersfield University 2005-Present). With no part time-courses available, Rachel has to find time to drop in on the full-time student's lectures, having to make up lecture time at work, regularly undertaking in excess of 37hrs/week employment with lecture time of up to 12 hours on top.

Alongside this sustained, lifelong learning, Rachel was promoted from an Apprentice at David Brown Engineering to a General Engineer in 1995 and further to a Design Engineer in 2005. Rachel's pathway dispels the widespread notion that Engineering and Manufacturing is a career typified by the absence of female employees. Rachel has not only, achieved valuable personal development through a determination to succeed, but also acted as a Sector promoter and role model within her industrial setting.

In June 2008 Rachel received a Highly Commended status in the West Yorkshire Adult Work-Based Learner Awards.