GEMMA BYRNE
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENT

EMPLOYER:
WATTS GROUP LTD

PROGRAMME:
BSc (HONS)
BUILDING SURVEYING

Looking back over your time on the apprenticeship so far, how have you found the whole experience?

The experience has been great. To be able to learn and study at the same time as having the hands on experience in the workplace has made me develop much quicker than if I'd have attended university on a full-time course and looked for employment afterwards.

How are you hoping a degree apprenticeship will support your career progression?

Being on a degree apprenticeship course which is focused on gaining Chartered Surveyor status means I will progress in my career much quicker than being on a non-apprenticeship degree as I will (hopefully) have passed my APC within 12 months of completion. This will be hugely beneficial in terms of my career progression and my position within the company.

What impact has your degree apprenticeship had in the organisation?

My employer has been able to offer me the opportunity to go from an Admin Assistant to a Building Surveyor in three years. I was the first person within the company to do a degree apprenticeship and they have been so pleased with my progress, and the whole process in general, that they are keen on offering the same opportunity to other potential students.

How would you describe the support that you've received from the University of Salford?

The support I have received from my Link Tutor has been really valuable. The meetings have been regular and thorough, ensuring a strong link has been kept between my university studies and my workplace.

Do you have any advice for future degree apprentices?

Make the most of any opportunities you have to practice in the workplace what you are learning at university. Reach out for the support when needed - studying and working full time can be challenging.

Would you recommend a degree apprenticeship?

It's the best way to learn and start your career whilst still being able to earn a wage.

APPRENTICESHIPS