

SNA Alumni

Phoebe – 2025 Leaver

GCSEs study: Media Studies, Spanish, History, Health & Social Care

Post 16: A Levels at South Nottinghamshire Academy were: English Language, Media Studies & Psychology

Post 18: Digital Marketing Degree Apprenticeship at E.ON

WHERE I AM NOW: I'm currently working full time at E.ON as a Degree Apprentice in Digital Marketing, alongside studying at Nottingham Trent University, which I attend around twice a month. My apprenticeship lasts four years and includes rotational placements, meaning I move teams every six months. This gives me the chance to try out different areas of the business and figure out where I best fit at E.ON.

I'm coming towards the end of my first placement in External Affairs, where I've been able to support the team in sharing E.ON's message and showing how the company puts its values into action. During this placement, I've written and published blogs on E.ON's newsroom, created social media posts and videos, and worked with lots of different stakeholders – which has all helped me get a real understanding of how the business operates.

Alongside my role, I have one study day a week as we are expected to have 20% of our apprenticeship as academic studying and I'm also a course representative at NTU, where I help support others on my course. I've already had some amazing opportunities, including attending a diversity awards ceremony in London, visiting the Solihull office, and spending a day at the City Ground (with a free tour!). It's been a great experience so far, and I'm excited to see what comes next.

HOW I FOUND THE TRANSITION FROM A LEVELS TO A DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP:

At first, I found the transition quite daunting. There was a lot of new information thrown at me all at once — learning about a huge business like E.ON, getting used to platforms such as Teams, Excel and our intranet, meeting loads of new people and understanding my role in my first placement. On top of that, I was starting university while working full time, which definitely pushed me out of my comfort zone.

Balancing work, university and my personal life is something I've had to quickly get used to. It wasn't necessarily hard, but it has definitely been overwhelming at times. That said, it's been really exciting and made me realise what I'm capable of. I've become more confident, organised and independent than I ever expected. Which I personally think is due to the fact I am working full time while at university, rather than transitioning into uni and remaining a student, I've had to entirely change my mindset.

One of the things that has made my transition smoother has been my support network – old and new. I've had an amazing support network at both E.ON and university, and I've met so many great people along the way. It's also a lot more fun and rewarding than a standard job — there are so many opportunities to get involved, try new things and grow. E.ON genuinely cares about its employees, and that really shows in the way they support early careers.

ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE:

Looking ahead, I want to keep building my network and continue pushing myself out of my comfort zone by trying new things and taking on different challenges. One of my main goals is to make the most of my rotational placements, gaining experience across a variety of teams and learning as much as I can along the way. Academically, I'm aiming to continue doing well at university and develop skills that will support me throughout my career.

Once I've completed my apprenticeship, I hope to secure a full-time role at E.ON in a team or area of the business that genuinely makes me happy and challenges me to keep growing. Ultimately, I want to build a career that I enjoy, feel proud of, and that sets me up for the future.

MESSAGE TO STUDENTS:

It's hard to know what to do once you finish school, and sometimes university may feel like an easier option if you're not sure what other options are out there – I felt the same before I took the time to look into degree apprenticeships and push myself to apply. But you don't need to figure it out straight away. Degree apprenticeships are a great option if you want to gain real work experience, earn a salary, and get a degree at the same time. It can feel scary at first and you will be pushed out of your comfort zone, but that's where the growth happens.

My advice would be to say yes to opportunities, ask questions, and don't be afraid to try something new. You'll learn so much about yourself along the way and build skills that will benefit you for the rest of your career. Most importantly, surround yourself with people who support you and believe in you — that makes a huge difference.