

## Where Are They Now?



Name: Tom Lockwood

Year left Winterhill: 2005

Currently: Working as an application engineer for AESSEAL

### What have you been up to since leaving Winterhill?

I joined AESSEAL in September 2005 as a design apprentice. Five years later, with my apprenticeship and Higher National Certificate (HNC) in manufacturing engineering completed, I was promoted to Division Manager of the bearing protection product range. It was a challenge at 21 years old to manage a team of eight; I had many long days but gained valuable experience!

Almost another seven years down the line, with bags of experience in a specific product market, I seized an opportunity in a completely different role within AESSEAL and moved to Kentucky in the US. I am now eight months into life on the other side of the pond working on a petrochemical plant as an onsite application engineer for AESSEAL.

### What does your job involve?

Apprenticeships are usually viewed as being for less academic people, which is not always the case. If you obtain a Higher National Certificate (HNC) or degree, eventually you are in the same position as if you were to go down the college/university route - but with lots of experience and your education paid for! If you like the sound of earning money whilst you learn (which is what appealed to me) then apprenticeships are certainly worth considering - but you have to be prepared to work hard at the same time.

What hours do you work?

I typically work 9:00am until 5:00pm or 8:00am until 4:00pm Monday to Friday.

What skills or qualities do you need?

You need to have patience and to pay attention. You need to be prepared to work hard, listen and learn.

Likes/Dislikes about the job

In the past, I liked that I was earning whilst learning. Now that I live in the US it is my lifestyle and new surroundings which I like the most. New challenges and constant learning is also a big positive. I dislike being away from family and friends back in the UK.

What are your plans for the future?

I want to become an expert in my relatively new role. I also want to visit lots of places in America and enjoy some time around the pool in the sun!

Any tips for current Winterhill students?

Enjoy whatever you choose to do and give it your best shot.

Good luck!