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Graduate Case Study

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Associate Profile: Aaron Pawson

Name: Aaron Pawson
Qualifications: BSc Hons Chemistry with Computer Applications
Current Role: Fluid Systems Division Manager
Location: Whitchurch, Shropshire

“Exposure to management experience rather than working solely on R&D was an excellent opportunity to learn new skills whilst working in a real commercial environment.”

IN MY KTP I...

My KTP with Roger Needham & Sons Limited was to rationalise current ink formulations and develop new inks specifically for the inkjet market, whilst implementing modern methods of working and computer-controlled systems to improve efficiency. Additionally, I assisted with the relocation of the company. My role on this KTP project allowed me to use my research and development knowledge to develop several new inks in the University laboratories, and rationalise the product range from literally thousands of formulations down to a small, more manageable number. This has put the company in a position to respond to market opportunities in the formulation of novel inks and facilitated continued growth and profitability.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROJECT WERE...

The highlight of my KTP was developing a particular product and seeing it brought to market. On a more personal level, I attended some good management training courses which have undoubtedly led me to where I am today. In particular, because I now no longer work within research and development, my new skill set has provided the opportunity to move away from working purely within laboratories into a more business oriented position.

THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING A KTP ASSOCIATE IS...

I had the opportunity to gain exposure to management experiences in business rather than working solely on R&D. Undertaking a KTP has allowed me to achieve so much more than most in-house training opportunities. I was extremely lucky to be teamed with my academic partners and the company, as I have built up a great relationship with them and I am still working on projects with both parties.

FROM KTP I HAVE LEARNT...

This KTP has allowed me to take on many opportunities and learn a large amount of new information and skills. Owning the project exposed me to experiences outside of the laboratory environment. KTP is a good opportunity to heighten your career horizon. The budget allowed me to have plenty of interesting and useful training, attending technical and scientific conferences across the world, for example, in Barcelona and Florida. I also had the opportunity to have an introduction to Quality Management, which I wouldn't have done otherwise.

LIFE AFTER KTP IS...

I was fortunate to be offered a job with the company at the end of my KTP. My project has also potentially opened doors to new opportunities. The biggest impact on my life is working in an interesting role that has given me the chance to develop in a different field. I am beginning to take on new initiatives that I considered during my KTP and now have the time-scale to put these into practice, so it is a continuous journey.

I WILL RECOMMEND KTP BECAUSE...

I would definitely recommend KTP because it provides different opportunities to most corporate graduate schemes. Working with academics and the company means the project can develop beyond its original objectives because you can highlight additional potential and prove capabilities throughout. Working within a smaller business means everybody is very 'hands-on' helping where they can, and working across the academic and industrial fields allows great training opportunities and networking of ideas.

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